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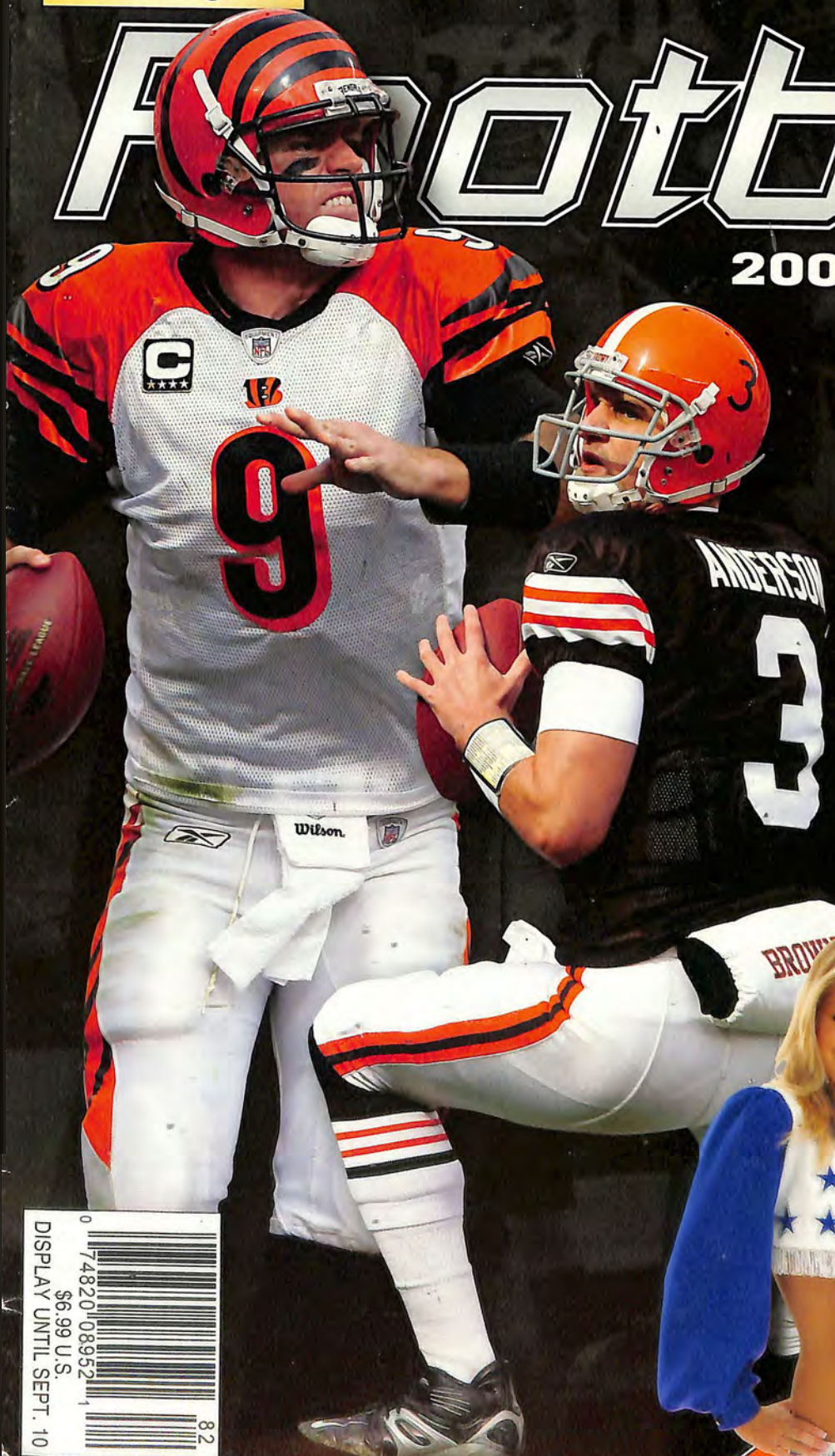

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Tailgating
The Food Still Makes the Party

"The rule on tailgating here: There are no rules, so plop your canopy down, set up your lawn chairs, fire up the grill and party." – Dave Hollingsworth

And, so it has become ... tailgating today is as much a part of the football landscape as the kickoff or the marching band.

It doesn't have an official starting date, but everybody knows it's here. Even if it's still late summer, you imagine a slight nip in the air, a little coolness when you first step out in the morning. It's that uniquely clear blue sky, that light breeze brushing your face.

Summer season is gone. Tailgating season is here.

At football stadiums around the country, legions of loyal fans plan their year around the hours before kickoff. For others, it's the *days* before kickoff, spent in parking lots in recreational vehicles. It has become a social event and more.

There are estimates that more than 27 million people tailgate regularly at football games. Millions more have pregame parties at home when they can't be at the stadium. And, that doesn't include tailgaters outside motorsports venues.

Tailgating has expanded into a year-round lifestyle and its nature has changed. Gone are the days of driving to the stadium, then driving home. You find just the right spot to park and put up the tent, the rendezvous place for friends and family. You can't forget the school colors, everything from napkins and cups to fans dressed from head-to-toe. The grill, the cooler, the table and chairs. Don't forget the music and the television.

Communities of tents and trucks spring up everywhere. Before the game. After the game. Some don't even go to the game. They just come for the tailgating. They share the memories of great games in seasons past. They share the fun and the food.

Oh, yes, the food. As much as tailgating has expanded and modernized over the years, one truth still remains ... it's not a great tailgate without great food.

Most start with the meat, everything from deli sandwiches to chicken, ribs, hot dogs and burgers on the grill. Casseroles, potato salad and baked beans. Appetizers and finger food get things started – mixed nuts, party mix, chip and dip of every variety.

And, of course, the drinks must be cold ... and you must have plenty. Have a lot of ice and pack an extra cooler. Have enough for after the game, whether celebrating the great victory or trying to forget the one that got away.

One thing is for sure, unless some things are planned ahead, it just won't turn out right.

"Sometimes we'll get things going at 8 a.m. for a 1 p.m. kickoff," said one longtime Atlanta Falcons fan. "And, we won't leave from tailgating until long after postgame. It takes a lot of planning and preparing things in advance."

But, remember that the little things can make a difference in the tailgating experience.

Have enough paper towels, napkins and garbage bags. Don't forget a first aid kit and fire extinguisher and maybe toilet paper, just in case.

With the right preparation, the tailgating event can be problem free and become something special.

"You have the opportunity to name your tailgate party," said the Falcons fan, a 30-year tailgating veteran. "From a 'Bayou Bash' with 100 pounds of crawfish to a 'Draft Day Fiesta' with Gordo's Tailgating fajita nachos. You can make every event an opportunity to be with friends, socialize, party and redefine tailgating in your own way.

"Whether it's going to a friend's house, meeting in the backyard or gathering outside the stadium, tailgating is game day, race day ... everyday."

GORDO'S Tailgating Fajita Nachos

Serving Size: 6

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lbs chicken breast(marinated), or
- 1 ½ lbs flank steak(marinated), or
- 12- peel & deveined large shrimp(marinated)
- 1 lb any flavor GORDO'S Cheese Dip (room temperature)
- 1 medium onion (sliced, marinated)
- ½ green bell pepper (sliced, marinated)
- 1 bag of tortilla chips

Marinade:

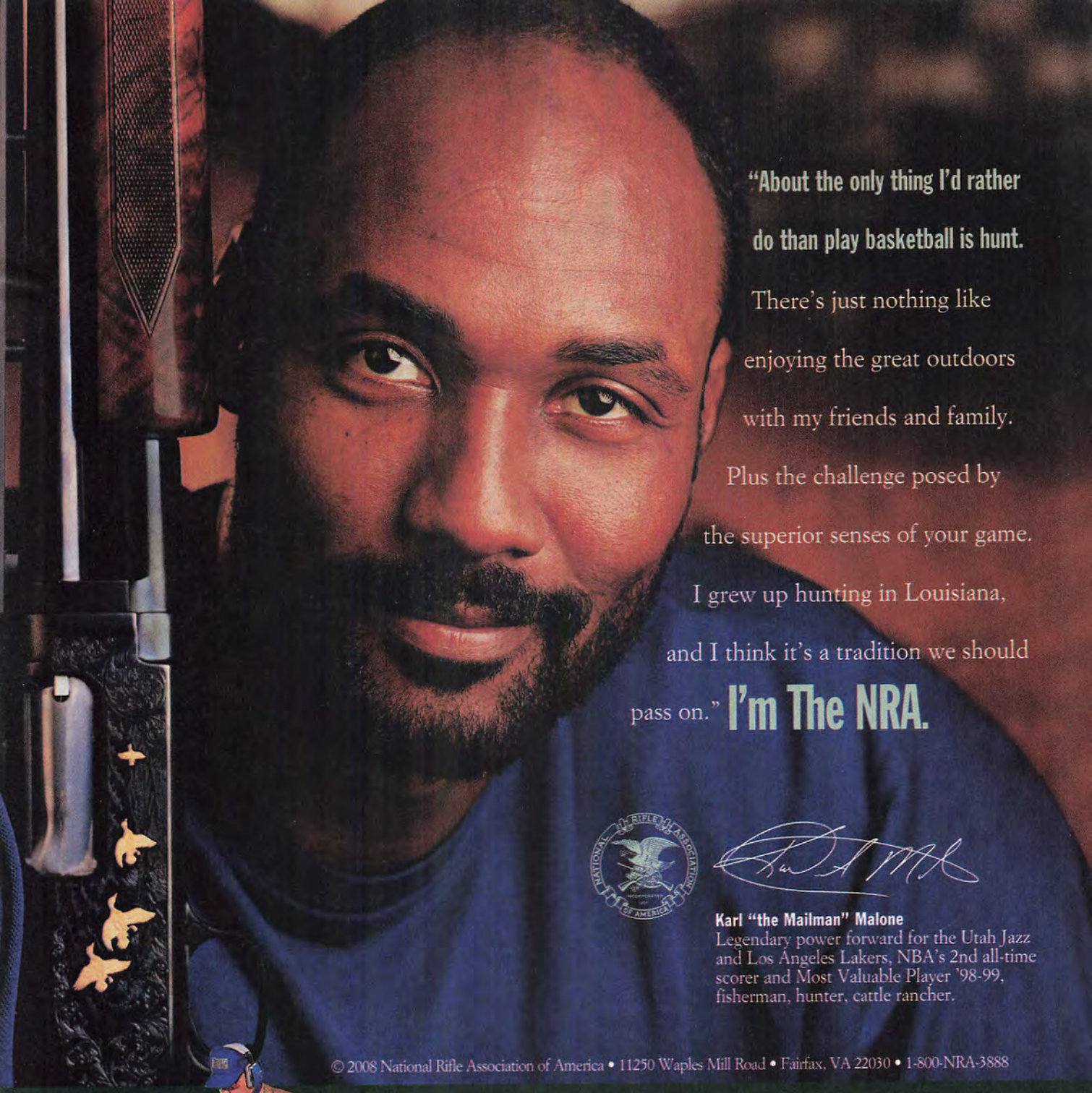
- 1 cup beer
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- ¼ cup minced fresh cilantro
- 2 T. olive oil
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. chili powder
- 2 t. minced garlic cloves
- 1 t. chopped jalepeno
- 1 t. ground cumin
- 1 t. salt

The night before, combine all marinade ingredients into a 1-gallon zip lock bag. Place onions, bell peppers, 3 tablespoons of marinade on a square of aluminum foil large enough to fold and seal, refrigerate (turn occasionally). Add chicken, steak or shrimp into the original marinade bag. Refrigerate at least two hours (turn occasionally) or until your grill is ready.

Place your veggie pouch onto the grill while cooking fajitas. Grill your choice of fajita over the grill to your liking and cut into bite size pieces. If choosing shrimp, careful ... it only takes a few minutes.

Arrange a thick layer of tortilla chips in a toss-away pan. Layer chicken, steak and/or shrimp. Third layer add onion and bell pepper. To top off your nachos, spoon GORDO'S CHEESE DIP over everything. Cover the pan with aluminum foil and place on the cool side of the grill for 10 minutes.

You will have the best platter of Tailgating Fajita Nachos ever!



"About the only thing I'd rather do than play basketball is hunt. There's just nothing like enjoying the great outdoors with my friends and family. Plus the challenge posed by the superior senses of your game. I grew up hunting in Louisiana, and I think it's a tradition we should pass on." **I'm The NRA.**

Karl "the Mailman" Malone
Legendary power forward for the Utah Jazz and Los Angeles Lakers, NBA's 2nd all-time scorer and Most Valuable Player '98-99, fisherman, hunter, cattle rancher.

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Wayne LaPierre, NRA Executive Vice President

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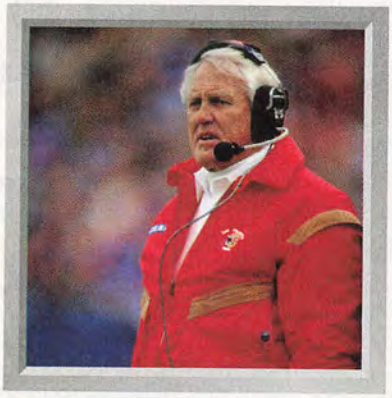

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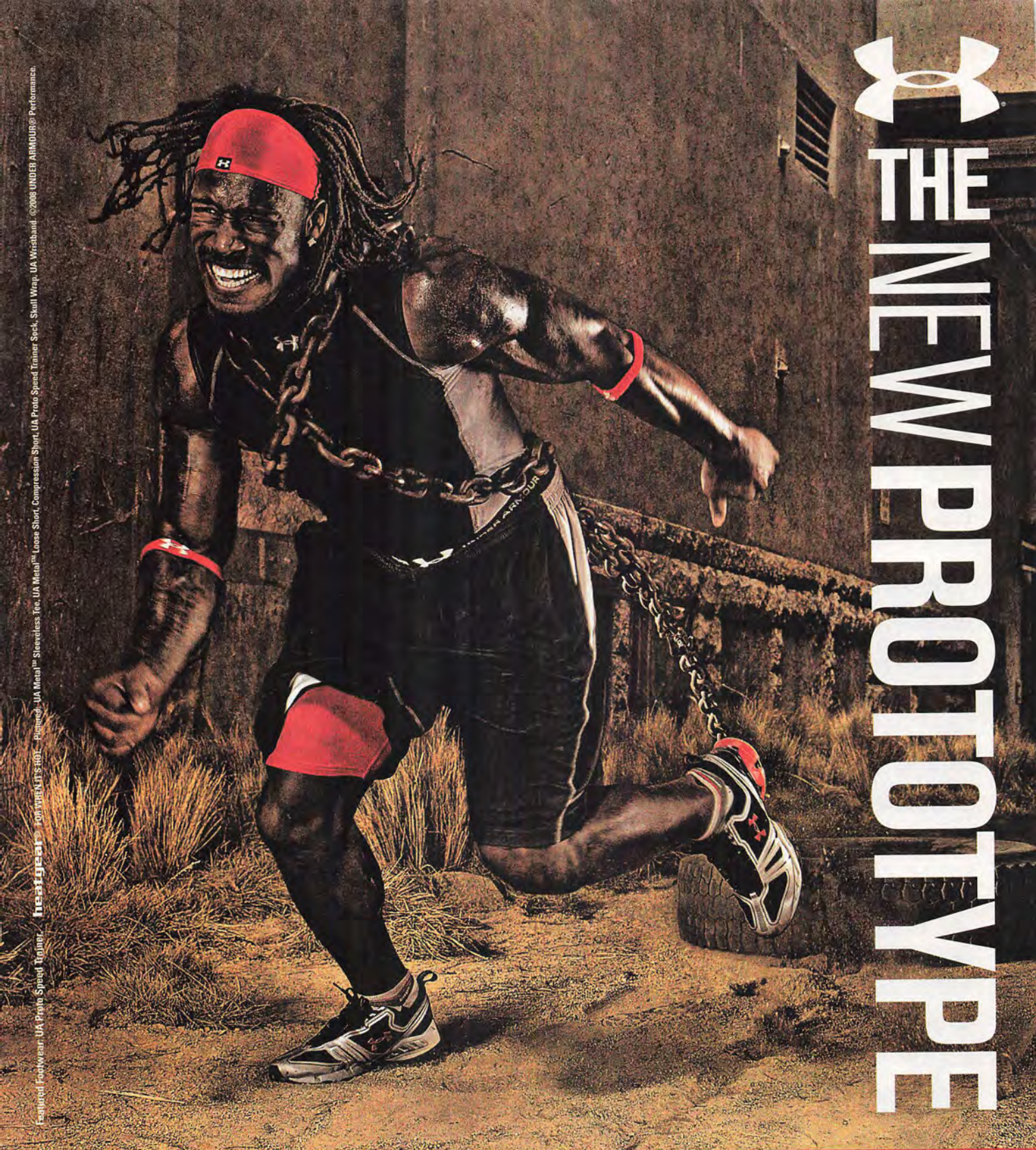

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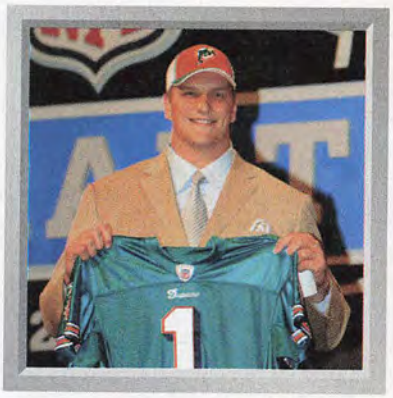

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Eli Manning Comes of Age, Just as Ernie Accorsi Believed

By Dave Klein

I have covered the New York Giants since 1961, and I have covered every one of the 42 Super Bowls.

So there I was in Glendale, Ariz., last Feb. 3, as the latest Super Bowl was winding down. It was heart-stopping and adrenalin-pumping, even for an old-timer who played some football way back in the last century.

But enough remains to understand the pressure and the intensity, the crucible heat of similar situations, the now-or-never quality of each and every decision, and so when the Giants took the ball for their last possession, having just given up their unexpected lead over the undefeated (and frantic) New England Patriots, looking at a 14-10 deficit that could not be made up by a field goal, seeing that there was just 2:39 remaining and a yawning, cavernous abyss of 83 yards loomed ahead of them to the New England end zone, it was, indeed, now or never.

It was right then, when Eli Manning was poised behind center Shaun O'Hara, with the legion of Patriots fans already celebrating their ultimate undefeated season that I murmured, only to myself:

"OK, Eli, show me what you've got."

No one was around, and even if someone was sitting next to me nothing would have been heard.

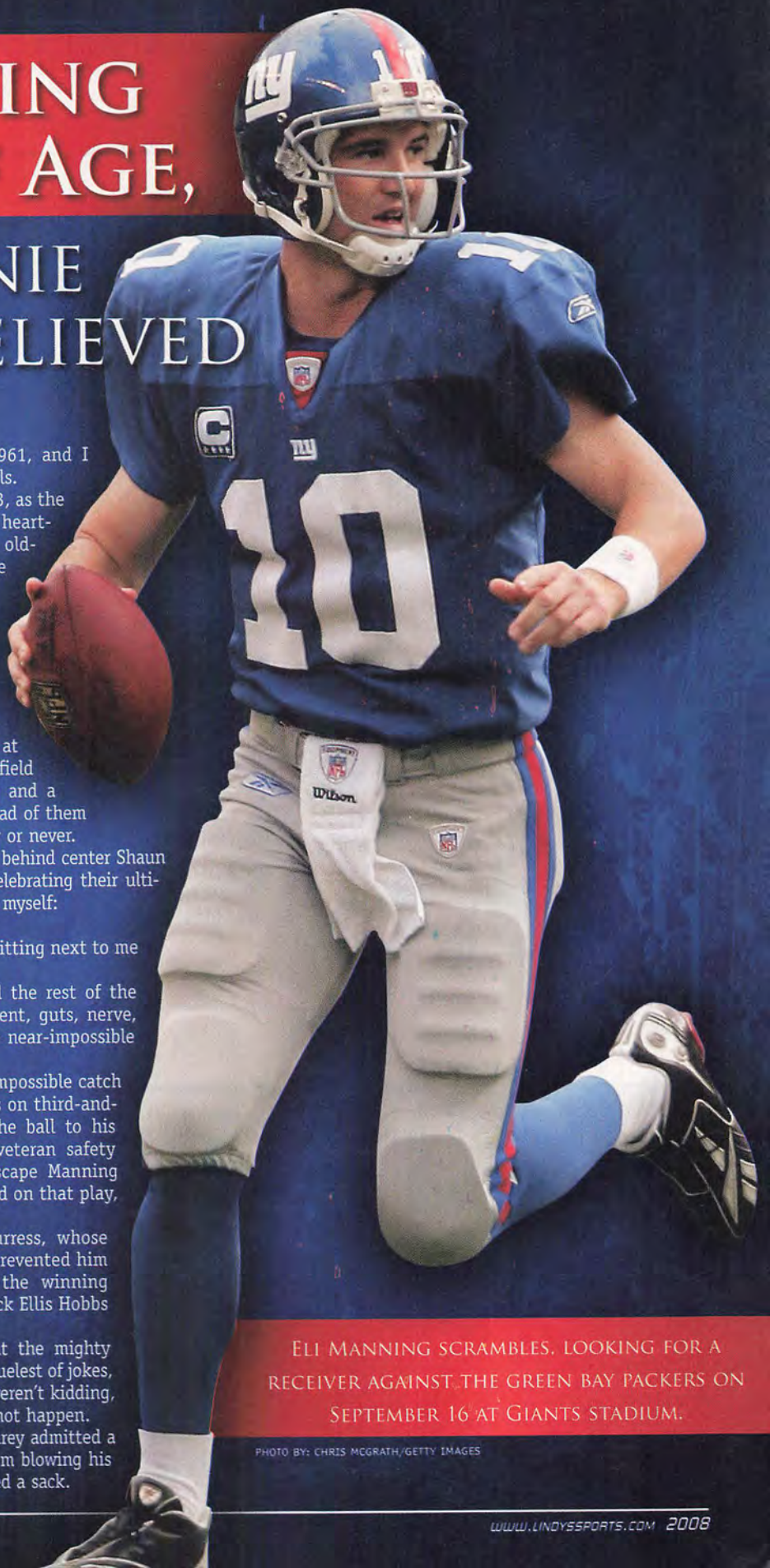
And do you know what? He showed me, and the rest of the world, exactly what he had. You may call it talent, guts, nerve, poise, surreal abilities, but whatever it was, the near-impossible was accomplished.

You all know by now the plays involved, the impossible catch by reserve wide receiver David Tyree for 32 yards on third-and-five, the "catch" Tyree produced by pinning the ball to his helmet as he fell to the ground in front of veteran safety Rodney Harrison. You all know the magical escape Manning generated when he was clearly about to be sacked on that play, only to somehow escape and throw the ball.

You all know how wide receiver Plaxico Burress, whose sprained ankle (which included a torn tendon) prevented him from practicing virtually all season, caught the winning touchdown pass of 13 yards in front of cornerback Ellis Hobbs with 35 seconds to play.

Finally, it has been recorded sufficiently that the mighty Patriots offense had four chances to reverse this cruelest of jokes, only to find out four plays later that the Giants weren't kidding, and that, indeed, the 19-0 perfect season would not happen.

What you may not know is that referee Mike Carey admitted a few days later that he was "one second away" from blowing his whistle and calling the trap from which Eli escaped a sack.



ELI MANNING SCRAMBLES, LOOKING FOR A RECEIVER AGAINST THE GREEN BAY PACKERS ON SEPTEMBER 16 AT GIANTS STADIUM.

PHOTO BY: CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

You know all that. But what you might not know are all the details, the strings left untied, the machinations behind the scenes and the ultimate courage of one man's convictions that brought Manning to that spot at that moment against that more than simply formidable foe.

His name is Ernie Accorsi, and he is the reason Eli Manning is the Giants' quarterback.

He was the Giants' general manager from 1998 through 2006, and before that he was the assistant general manager to the late George Young. He assumed the position when Young moved to the NFL as director of football operations.

Accorsi often referred to himself as a "football lifer," having previously served as general manager of the Cleveland Browns and prior to that the Baltimore Colts. He also was public relations director of the Colts from 1970 through 1975, then joined the NFL as an advisor to the late commissioner Pete Rozelle and assistant to the president of the NFC.

He even put in some time as a vice president of the Baltimore Orioles after resigning as general manager of the Colts — and that is where this story began.

Accorsi had drafted John Elway for the Colts in 1983, and despite Elway's insistence that he would never play in Baltimore, Accorsi was hopeful that he would change his mind. "We were making progress in the negotiations," he said once. "I was sure we would sign him."

Then, watching television one morning before leaving for work, he learned that the Colts' owner, Robert Irsay, had traded Elway to the Denver Broncos.

"I felt like someone had punched me in the stomach," he remembered. "I was sold down the river and I could no longer work there. I phoned in my resignation."

The unexpected and unceremoniously delivered loss of the quarterback Accorsi was convinced would be one of the "special ones" was, in part and parcel, the main reason for why he did what he did with Eli Manning 21 years later.

The days leading up to that fateful April afternoon in 2004 were filled with dropped hints and innuendoes, if only someone would have really listened.

One afternoon, speaking to him in his office at Giants Stadium while he toyed with a ball point pen, he said: "You know, when you have a chance to get one of those special quarterbacks, the kind who show up just once in a generation, and if you are close enough to have a chance, then you are morally obligated to try."

The Giants had the fourth overall position in the first round that year, but technically so did three other teams — Oakland, San Diego and Arizona, all of which finished with a 4-12 record. San Diego was awarded the top spot based on strength of schedule and ultimately the Giants came up with the fourth spot.

Manning would not have lasted that long; in fact, he was not going to last beyond the Chargers.

And then the eerie déjà vu similarities between John Elway and this next "quarterback for a generation" surfaced, again with Accorsi in the middle.

Manning and his agent and, yes, his family, announced that he would not accept the Chargers and warned them not to take him. This is unusual but not uncommon, although seldom did any draft kid come with more impeccable credentials — including his father, Archie, who played for 14 years in the NFL; and his older brother, Peyton, who is still playing for the Indianapolis (once Baltimore) Colts and who, like his baby brother, was a first overall draft choice six years earlier. Archie was the second overall pick in 1971 by New Orleans.

Now, Archie took on a leadership role as head of the family. "My son Eli will not play in San Diego," he announced, over and over and over. "He does not want to play for the Chargers and they will be wasting a valuable draft pick if they insist on taking him."

It was never stipulated where Eli wanted to play (or, perhaps more correctly, where Archie wanted Eli to play), but the Chargers were caught between a rock and a Hall of Fame family. Oakland had the second pick, and the concern was that if the Chargers passed, the Raiders would take him — and thus they'd have to play against him twice every season as a member of the AFC West. Arizona was the third team, and while the Cardinals would certainly have drafted Eli, there was no chance he'd get down that far — nor much of a chance that Archie would have allowed that, either.

So Accorsi spoke with Chargers' general manager A.J. Smith, and it is unclear as to who made the first move. You may now take it to the bank that Smith did. He called Accorsi to inquire about his interest in young Elisha.

"We talked for several weeks," Accorsi said. "I didn't frankly think it was going to get done, but I kept after it. A.J. wanted more and more and finally I had to say something like, 'Hey, that's it, that's enough.' You know, I think he was waiting for me to say that. I guess I should have done it sooner."

The deal was struck, with one more twist. The Giants would draft the quarterback of San Diego's choice, Philip Rivers, with their fourth overall selection. Then they would package Rivers, their third-round pick later in the day, plus their first- and fifth-round picks the following year — all for the rights to sign Manning.

"At the last minute," Accorsi said, "A.J. asked if I wanted to keep the No. 1 pick the next year and throw in (defensive end) Osi Umenyiora instead, and I almost laughed. That was not going to happen, even at the cost of the deal going through."

PHOTO BY: GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

QUARTERBACK ELI MANNING AND HEAD COACH TOM COUGHLIN CHAT ON THE PODIUM AFTER SUPER BOWL XLII.

PHOTO BY: TOM BERG/NFL

NEW YORK GIANTS NO. 1 DRAFT PICK ELI MANNING WITH HIS MOM, BROTHER PEYTON MANNING AND FATHER ARCHIE MANNING AT THE 2004 NFL DRAFT.

Look at San Diego's options. If they played hardball with Manning, he could have waited until the next year and made himself draft-eligible again. "Oh, absolutely, that was in the plans," said Archie.

If the Chargers passed and took someone else in that draft — offensive tackle Robert Gallery, for instance, or perhaps wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald (who were the second and third selections in the round) — the Raiders would have taken Manning and he most likely would have played for them, rather, daddy would have allowed it.

Archie was asked why he was so adamant that his son not play for the Chargers, and he spoke only one word: "Organization," he said.

And so Eli Manning joined the Giants. This set in motion the old Broadway version of changing scenes — "Enter Right, Exit Left."

With the mellifluous tones of "I ain't no

F——N babysitter" echoing in Accorsi's office a few days after the draft, Kerry Collins walked out on the team to take a contract for $2 million less with Oakland.

"I tried to show him that I could structure a contract with the same money he was going to get," Accorsi said, "only that I would make it a one-year deal with three 'voidable' years afterwards. It was time for us to get this thing started and I really wanted Kerry to be the guy up front during the transition."

Indeed, it was Accorsi who had championed the signing of Collins when he was released by Carolina and then New Orleans with an alcohol abuse problem circling around his head. "In a very real sense," he once said, "Mr. Accorsi and the Giants saved my pro football life."

Well, it really is a case of "what have you done for me lately," isn't it?

Veteran defensive end Michael Strahan was fuming. "I am too far along in my career to have to play on a team with a baby quarterback," he said. "If this happens, I may never get that Super Bowl ring."

Well he got one this past February, with Eli at the helm.

Now Manning has emerged, indisputably, as perhaps the finest young quarterback in the NFL. He has withstood the first year (he didn't start until the ninth game) and the learning problems. He has been intercepted far more often than he would have liked. He has made far more mistakes than his high level of intelligence and all that coaching since he was six years old would have expected. He has had to prove to a team of older men that he is, after all, the wunderkind and, to some, the savior.

He did it with interference from several players but none more so than tight end Jeremy Shockey and the recently retired running back Tiki Barber, both of whom screamed at him in the huddle and the locker room. Shockey exposed him to public ridicule during games with displays of frustration when a pass was too high, too low, too wide or not thrown to him when he wanted to be the receiver.

But despite his outward impression of a laid-back, aw-shucks country kid with a goofy smile on his face, Eli Manning is as tough as steel and as unflappable as anyone in this league. He knows how good he is but a proper upbringing does not allow him to boast or even indicate that, deep inside, he feels he is the best quarterback around.

There was one moment when he was a rookie and finally reported to the Giants' summer camp, when someone walked off with him after that first formal press conference and asked: "The Giants passed on Philip Rivers and Ben Roethlisberger to get you and they paid a hell of a lot for you. What do you think about all that?"

He smiled, but it wasn't a goofy smile. It was hard and he stared directly into the questioner's eyes and he said: "The Giants got the best quarterback in the draft and they know it."

In fact, and perhaps this is the crux of the Eli Manning Story thus far, the Giants played better and more successfully starting with the 15th game of the 2007 season when Shockey was lost with a fractured fibula and damaged ankle. They "had to make do" with a rookie fifth-round pick named Kevin Boss from that hotbed of major collegiate football, Western Oregon University.

But in point of fact, Manning stopped throwing interceptions because he was trying to placate Shockey with a pass. He wasn't pressing, either in the huddle or in the locker room. He didn't miss the Shockey blocking for two reasons — despite what the team's coaches say, Shockey just isn't that effective; and because Shockey never had his heart in it, since he wants to be a receiver only. Indeed, Shockey advised teammate Visanthe Shiancoe in 2006 not to sign as an unrestricted free agent with Minnesota and to stay with the team. Why? "Because I don't think I'm going to stay here," he reportedly told him, "and when I leave, you'll be the starter."

The problem with Shockey became accentuated earlier in the 2007 season, when Manning began throwing to Burress more than usual. In so doing, he began to chip away the plays that were directed at Shockey. There were some locker-room shouting matches and at least three times the volatile tight end, a four-time Pro Bowl player, demanded of his position coach (Mike Pope) and the offensive coordinator (Kevin Gilbride) that he wanted a change made in how he was used.

He wanted to be a receiver, almost to the exclusion of blocking, although Pope defends his student by saying: "I am not sure that there is a better blocking tight end in the league than Jeremy."

The Giants without Shockey proved to be the catalyst necessary to complete the emergence of Eli Manning — the next "greatest quarterback of his generation," according to Accorsi.

"You know, when I was with Baltimore, I saw the effect John Unitas had on the team," he says. "Then in Cleveland, I noticed the difference when Bernie Kosar walked into a room. There is just an aura, a sense of something special that surrounds them. You can tell it, you can feel it. It isn't that hard."

Accorsi has been accused of forcing the trade for Manning in order to finally deal with the disappointment that still stays with him when he lost Elway to an impulsive, non-football man owner in Baltimore.

"Accorsi finally gets his Elway," blared one newspaper headline the day after the trade in April of 2004.

He smiled when that was pointed out. "Maybe," he said, "but I should have had 'em both."

Accorsi retired at the conclusion of the 2006 season. He didn't take another job, he didn't join another team. He simply decided it had been enough.

"I missed the first draft day without me," he said, referring to April of last year when his hand-picked and personally-trained replacement, Jerry Reese, hit a grand slam home run by drafting eight players and seeing all of them make the roster, contributing in varying degrees as the Giants mounted a stunning roll to the Super Bowl. "I don't think I missed it a lot, but the draft was always the best day of the season for me."

And watching his "second Elway" make every prediction come true, watching Eli Manning live up to (and beyond) every expectation, will probably make Draft Day of 2004 stand out as the best of all those best days. ■

PHOTO BY: BEN LIEBENBERG/NFL PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

ELI MANNING RAISES THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY AFTER HIS TEAM DEFEATED THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS 17-14 IN SUPER BOWL XLII ON FEBRUARY 3, 2008.

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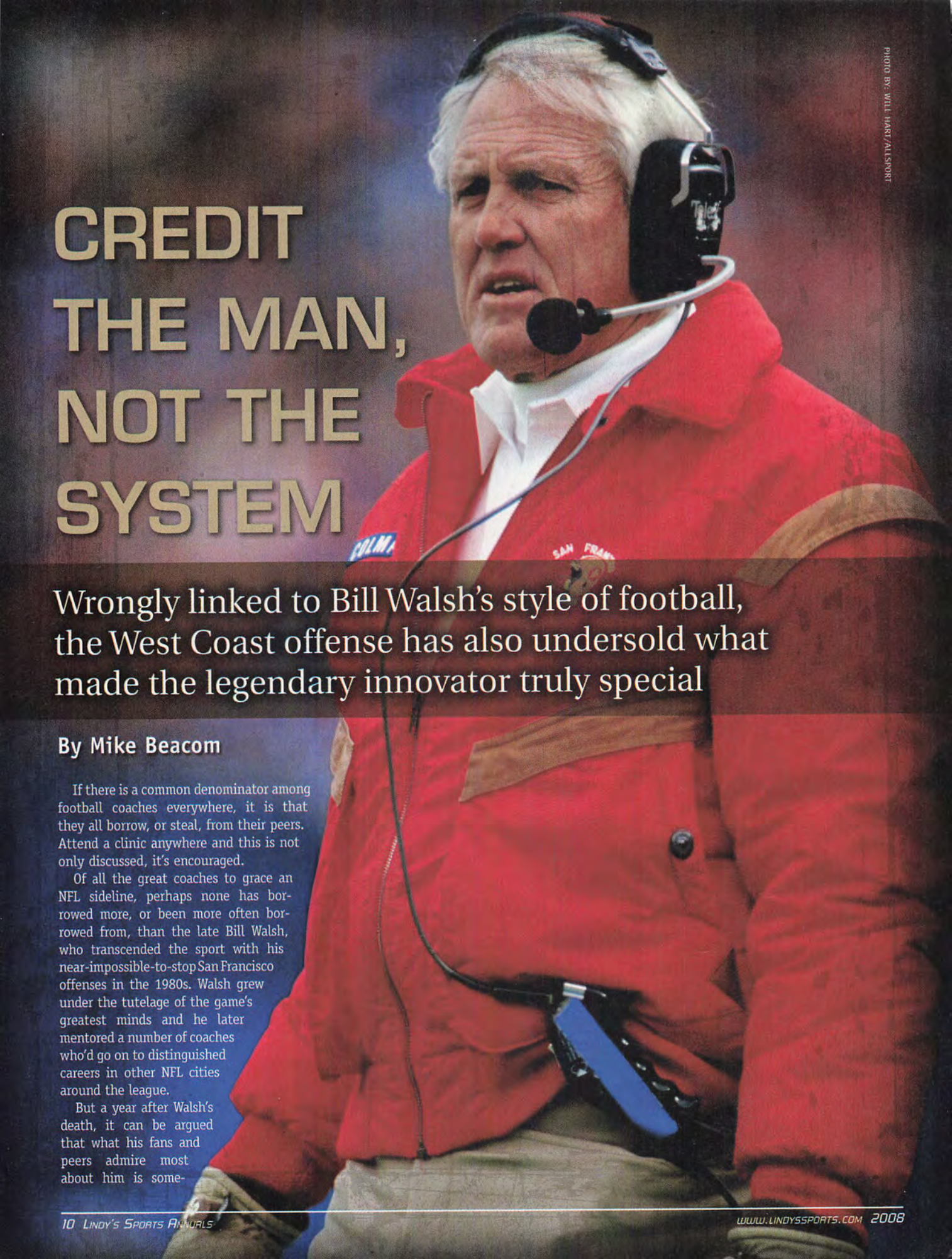


PHOTO BY: WILL HART/ALLSPORT

CREDIT THE MAN, NOT THE SYSTEM

Wrongly linked to Bill Walsh's style of football, the West Coast offense has also undersold what made the legendary innovator truly special

By Mike Beacom

If there is a common denominator among football coaches everywhere, it is that they all borrow, or steal, from their peers. Attend a clinic anywhere and this is not only discussed, it's encouraged.

Of all the great coaches to grace an NFL sideline, perhaps none has borrowed more, or been more often borrowed from, than the late Bill Walsh, who transcended the sport with his near-impossible-to-stop San Francisco offenses in the 1980s. Walsh grew under the tutelage of the game's greatest minds and he later mentored a number of coaches who'd go on to distinguished careers in other NFL cities around the league.

But a year after Walsh's death, it can be argued that what his fans and peers admire most about him is some-

thing those closest to him suggest Walsh had no interest in being associated with: a system.

The West Coast Offense, as legend now suggests, was not really Walsh's to begin with, nor was it what made the man the elite coaching mind that he truly was. Made popular in San Francisco, and improperly labeled, that system, which relied heavily on its fullbacks and tight ends to "bail out" the quarterback if primary downfield receivers were not open, was really not so much a system at all, but rather an exercise in Walsh's genius as a puzzle-fitter and as a disciplinarian.

And now, despite being heralded across the NFL landscape, the West Coast Offense can be considered as dead as Latin. What lives on, though, is how Walsh made that system go. And that is what football aficionados need to appreciate about him. But before that, it's important they understand the history of the passing game and learn a bit about where Walsh's boat was before it docked in the San Francisco Bay.

An abbreviated history of the modern-day passing offense shows that much of the forward pass's origins can be tied to Ohio — ironically, the home state of grind-it-out gruffs Woody Hayes and Bo Schembechler.

- Legalized in 1906, evidence suggests the first successful forward pass occurred during a meeting between Saint Louis University and Carroll College that September. Massillon's George Parratt is credited with having thrown the first completed pass in a professional contest.

- In Sandusky, Ohio, in 1913, legend is Gus Dorais and Knute Rockne worked on perfecting the pass play while serving as lifeguards on the shores of Lake Erie.

- Studying as an assistant under Ohio State's Francis Schmidt, former all-conference end Sid Gillman begins what becomes a noteworthy coaching career. In Columbus, Gillman will get to observe Schmidt's relentless and unforgiving offenses, which earn the scowl-faced coach the nickname, "Close the Gates of Mercy Schmidt."

- Schmidt's replacement in 1940 is a local coach doing wonderful things at Massillon Washington High School — Paul Brown. At Ohio State, Brown will win a national championship in 1942, but his innovative approach to the passing game doesn't take flight until he is pulled into the war and asked to coach at the Great Lakes Naval Station, where the country's top athletes are stationed.

  Brown's early contribution to the passing game was simple: spread out the attack. By splitting the tight end out wide and moving the halfback stationed opposite him into what would now be called the "Z" spot, or slot, Brown's methods were considered cutting edge. Said Mike Giddings, a former pro and college coach and longtime NFL talent evaluator, "It was radical to see ends split out, even five yards. Not a lot of teams were doing that."

- Like every distinguishable coach of the era (or virtually every coach), Gillman does his tour at Ohio's Miami University before landing in the NFL in 1955 with the pass-happy Los Angeles Rams. Later in life he pays respect to Brown by stating, "I always felt before Paul Brown, coaches just rolled the ball out onto the field." Eventually Gillman will wind up in San Diego coaching Barron Hilton's Chargers' teams of the 1960s, where understudies from all around the country will come to carefully examine his approach to the passing game. One frequent visitor is the San Diego State head coach — a guy named Don Coryell. The Chargers of that era passed every which way they could, but most importantly — they passed.

  "The main thing that Gillman probably brought to the game was the idea that passing was not a bad thing," said Giddings. The Charger' receivers coach during Gillman's first three seasons is a rather ambitious youngster named Al Davis.

- Having left Gillman, Davis employs his own passing philosophies as the Oakland Raiders' coach. The difference? "Sid employed two halfbacks and used a lot of draws," said Giddings. "Al changed that to more of a power running game when he got to Oakland. The deep pass was the same, but how they got to it was different."

  The objective to both passing philosophies was simple: employ fast wide receivers who can win a one-on-one foot race against an out-matched cornerback. By emphasizing the run early, whether with finesse or power, the safeties are brought toward the line of scrimmage, and later that can be exploited with long passes. Said Giddings, "The idea was, if you throw deep eight or nine times a game you're going to complete two of those throws, or if anything, draw pass interference. And to buy time they used seven-step drops because the pass rushers had to respect the run first."

- After having spent many years in Cleveland, Brown takes over control of the Cincinnati Bengals in 1968. His early years involve a lot of downfield passing, similar to what Davis has done with success in Oakland.

- After five seasons with the NFL's St. Louis Cardinals, Coryell lands in San Diego, where he'll build his own style of offense.

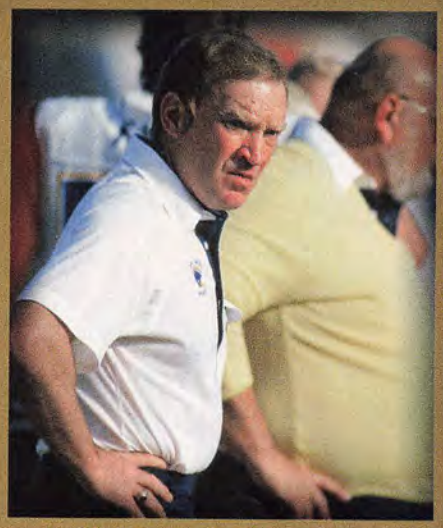


PHOTO BY: ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

Head Coach Don Coryell of the San Diego Chargers stands on the sidelines during a game in December of 1983

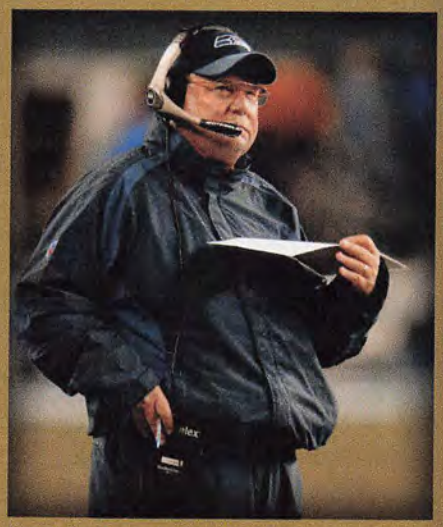
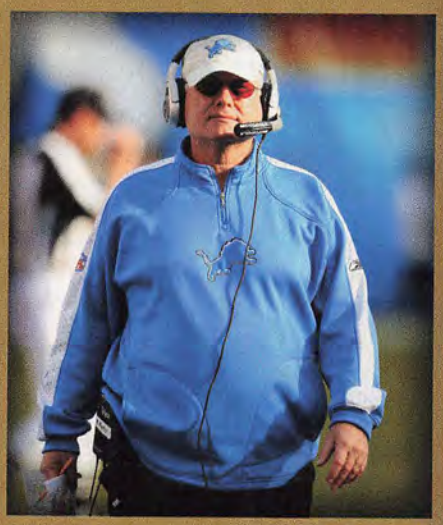


PHOTO BY: KIRBY LEE

Seattle Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren watches from the sidelines during 16-0 victory over the Oakland Raiders on November 6, 2006.



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Offensive coordinator Mike Martz of the Detroit Lions watches play from the sidelines during the game against the San Diego Chargers on December 16, 2007 in San Diego.

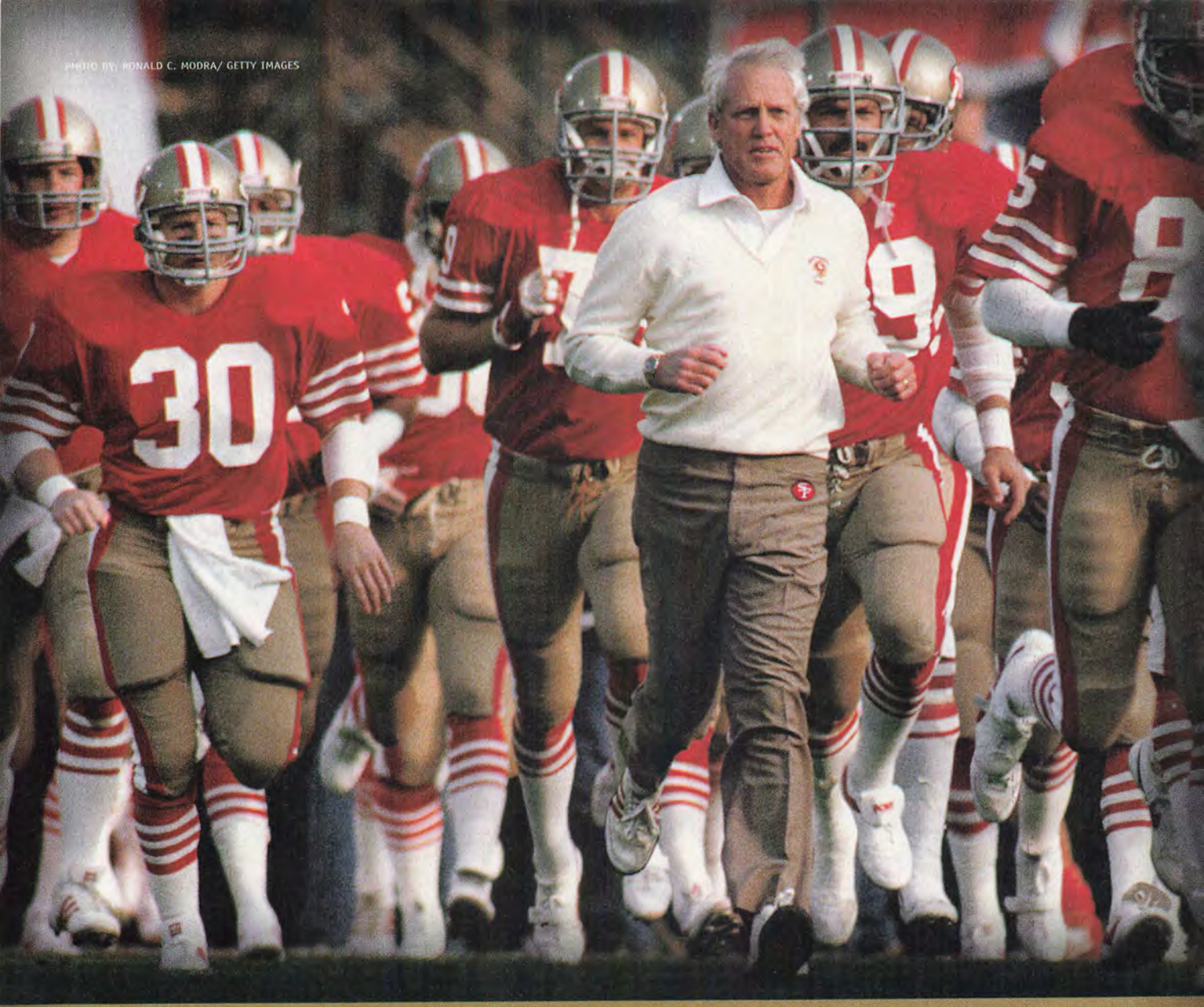
PHOTO BY: RONALD C. MODRA/ GETTY IMAGES

"He built those passing teams with guards and a center made of rock. You couldn't budge those guys," said Giddings. Truth be told, Coryell had no choice; his quarterback, Dan Fouts, had cement feet. Coryell kept the pressure off of his talented passer, who could throw deep, but the Chargers' offense also featured the bigger catch-and-run receivers that would later define Walsh's offenses. Another of Coryell's disciples, Joe Gibbs, will borrow many of his mentor's philosophies and meld them with Davis' power approach when he accepts the head coaching job in Washington.

- The 1978 49ers finish the year 2-14 and decide they need to make a coaching change. The team chooses Stanford coach Bill Walsh, who incorporates all he had learned into what later becomes known as the West Coast Offense.

Said Walsh's longtime friend, and former coaching associate Mike White, "You have to examine two things: his play selection over the years, and the unbelievable ability he had of calling plays that utilized the talents of the players he had. When people try to copy him, or they're from the Bill Walsh tree or something, people assume that makes it a West Coast offense. No one has ever made it as successful as he did."

To be fair, Walsh's philosophies on passing the football probably should not have been called the West Coast Offense to begin with, and the story behind it is now football fodder. During a conversation with Bernie Kosar, longtime football scribe Paul Zimmerman asked about his offensive system. Kosar, a student of the game, associated what he was working with as having ties to what he called the West Coast Offense. Only Kosar was speaking of the down-the-field system featured by Gillman and Davis in the AFL. Unlike Walsh's high-percentage short passing attack, that system was more aggressive and far less complex. Or, as Davis disciple and eventual Green Bay Packers general manager Ron Wolf explained it, " ... deep routes, outs, hooks, comebacks — the ball went deep. Then you'd get that middle empty and you could throw to the tight end deep down the middle of the field."

Said Giddings, "In Al or Sid's offense, they liked to throw the ball downfield, and running after the catch wasn't nearly as important. On the stop, or comeback, the defender's going to tackle you. Bill felt it was more effective to throw short and have your long gains come after the catch."

As legend would have it, Zimmerman's piece was picked up by a wire-service guy who wrongly tied the term, West Coast Offense, to what Walsh had built in San Francisco. "Walsh called me up pissed off," recalled Zimmerman, "said that wasn't his offense."

Oh, but it could have been Walsh's philosophy ... and it almost was. As fate would have

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it, Walsh's journey often intersected at points where the passing game was evolving.

Having left San Jose State in 1956, Walsh spent three years coaching at the high-school level before accepting the defensive coordinator job at Cal. There he met White, who he'd work with at Stanford while Walsh served as its defensive backs coach. "He had written his thesis on defensive football when he got his doctorate," laughed White, who spoke at the coach's memorial service last summer.

But in 1966, Walsh switched to the offensive side of the football when he accepted a post as the Oakland Raiders' offensive backs coach. If ever the fate of how the football would be flung downfield, it was then. Typical of Oakland teams from the era, and of Davis' endorsement of vertical passing, the Raiders led the AFL in yards per completion that season — Walsh there as an observer more than as someone of great import. In fact, said Wolf, an Oakland scout at the time, "I don't really recall much of him. If you're asking how much of an influence he had on the Raiders' passing attack, my answer would be 'not much.'"

Two years later when he accepted Brown's offer to serve as the offensive coordinator of the expansion Cincinnati Bengals, Walsh had a blank canvas with which to work — sort of. It's well-documented that Walsh's early years in Cincinnati offered the type of passing success more closely resembling the downfield attack than what later would become identified with Walsh's style of football. The 1969 Bengals, in fact, boasted three receivers with double-digit catch totals who averaged better than 20 yards per reception, and the receiving corps averaged 16.7 yards per catch — higher than every other AFL club, and almost a full two yards more than Oakland's average that season. The team's quarterback, Greg Cook, was one of the game's brightest young prospects, and, as Zimmerman put it, "could throw it a million miles with touch. This was going to be an offense that was going to wipe out all the records."

Fate in the form of injury stepped in, and what would be was not to be at all. A series of injuries ruined Cook's career, and all of those downfield yards were short-lived. The following year the team was forced to turn to Virgil Carter to assist while Cook recovered from a shoulder injury, and Walsh was forced to help re-make the Bengals attack. But, while historians insist this transition signifies the origin of Walsh's ingenuity — claiming Carter's insertion forced Walsh to reinvent his philosophy on the passing game — it in many ways undersells Walsh's innumerable contributions to the game of football.

While it is true that the 1970 Cincinnati Bengals did average below the league average in yards per catch, and that the team's quarterbacks registered the second fewest interceptions — both suggesting a more controlled, higher-percentage approach to passing — it also can be said that what was really born in that season was what fans fail to identify or appreciate about Walsh's legacy — his ability to adapt.

Sam Wyche, who backed up both Cook in 1969 and Carter in 1970, claims Walsh deserved as much responsibility for the team's downfield success in the franchise's first two years, as for its modest success amidst chaos during the changes made in 1970. Forced to relieve an injured Cook for a large portion of the 1969 campaign, Wyche produced the best numbers of his career. Recalled Wyche that at one point that season, "I moved to the No. 1 passer in the AFL. I still have the clipping where it says, 'Wyche, Cincinnati,' then (Joe) Namath, then (Daryle) Lamonica, then (Ken) Stabler, then (Len) Dawson ... boy, how proud I was until I walked into the training camp facility that Monday morning after I got through reading the morning paper and Paul Brown said to me, 'Well, Greg Cook's healthy again, he'll be starting this week.' It was the system that made that offense go, because I wasn't anywhere near close to the quarterback that Greg Cook was."

And, after Cook's career had shriveled, and Carter was no longer welcomed, Walsh and the Bengals reverted back to a Mad Bomber-like approach (tight end Bruce Coslet averaged 17 yards per reception in 1971, while Charlie Joiner and Isaac Curtis were used to stretch defenses in Walsh's final few seasons in Cincinnati). All of this suggests Walsh didn't subscribe to any one theory, or even have a change of philosophy, but rather that he made the most of what he had to work with — a common theme throughout the remainder of his coaching career.

Feeling spurned by Brown in 1975 when the coach hung up his hat and named Bill Johnson his successor, Walsh spent a year with Coryell before landing a head coaching job at Stanford. By the time he arrived in San Francisco in 1979, Walsh was ready to incorporate all that he had learned. Only the timing wasn't right.

"He didn't waltz in there with some magical system called the West Coast Offense," said White, who served as the team's offensive line coach from 1978-79. "We didn't have the pieces at the time."

But what Walsh did offer immediately was the foundation for what would become that system. For Wyche, who was hired in 1979 to direct the 49ers' passing game, the terminology was similar to what he had learned as a young quarterback a decade before.

"I'll tell you how close it was. One of the basic plays we had was a five-step drop where the flanker ran a 10- to 12-yard pivot, the fullback ran a wide flair to the outside, and the tight end walled off the inside linebacker and ran a little hook over the ball. We called it '22 Z in' in Cincinnati and when we got to San Francisco it was called '82 Z in.' So the terminology was that close, and the play was exactly the same," said Wyche.

Under Walsh the team duplicated its 2-14 mark from the year before. But in 1980, things changed. This, according to White and others, is when Walsh's innovative approach to the passing game began to show.

With a revamped staff and personnel, Walsh got a fresh start and began to incorporate the principles that would make his system of Xs and Os work on Sundays.

One of Walsh's early assistants, Billy

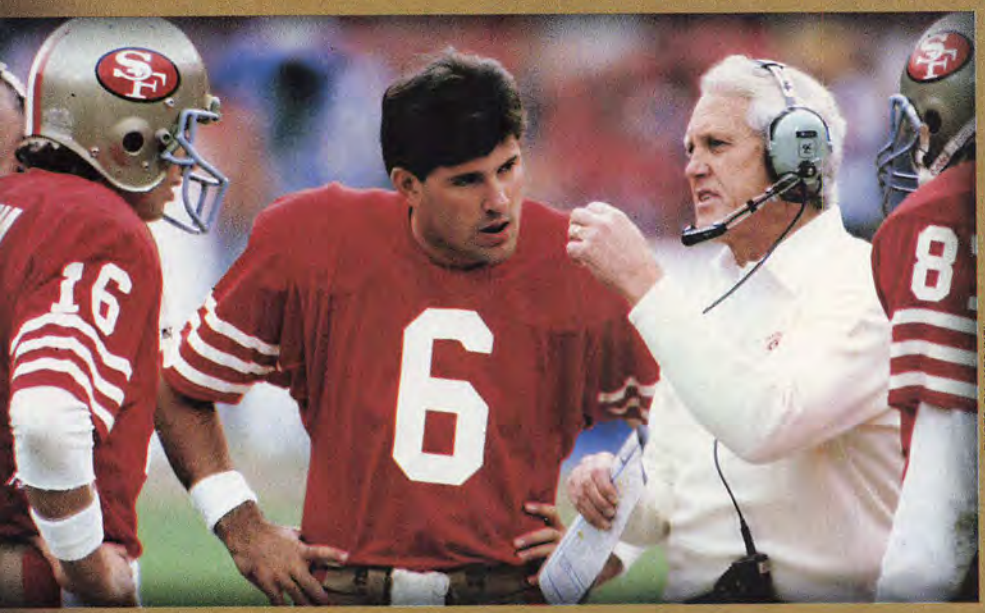
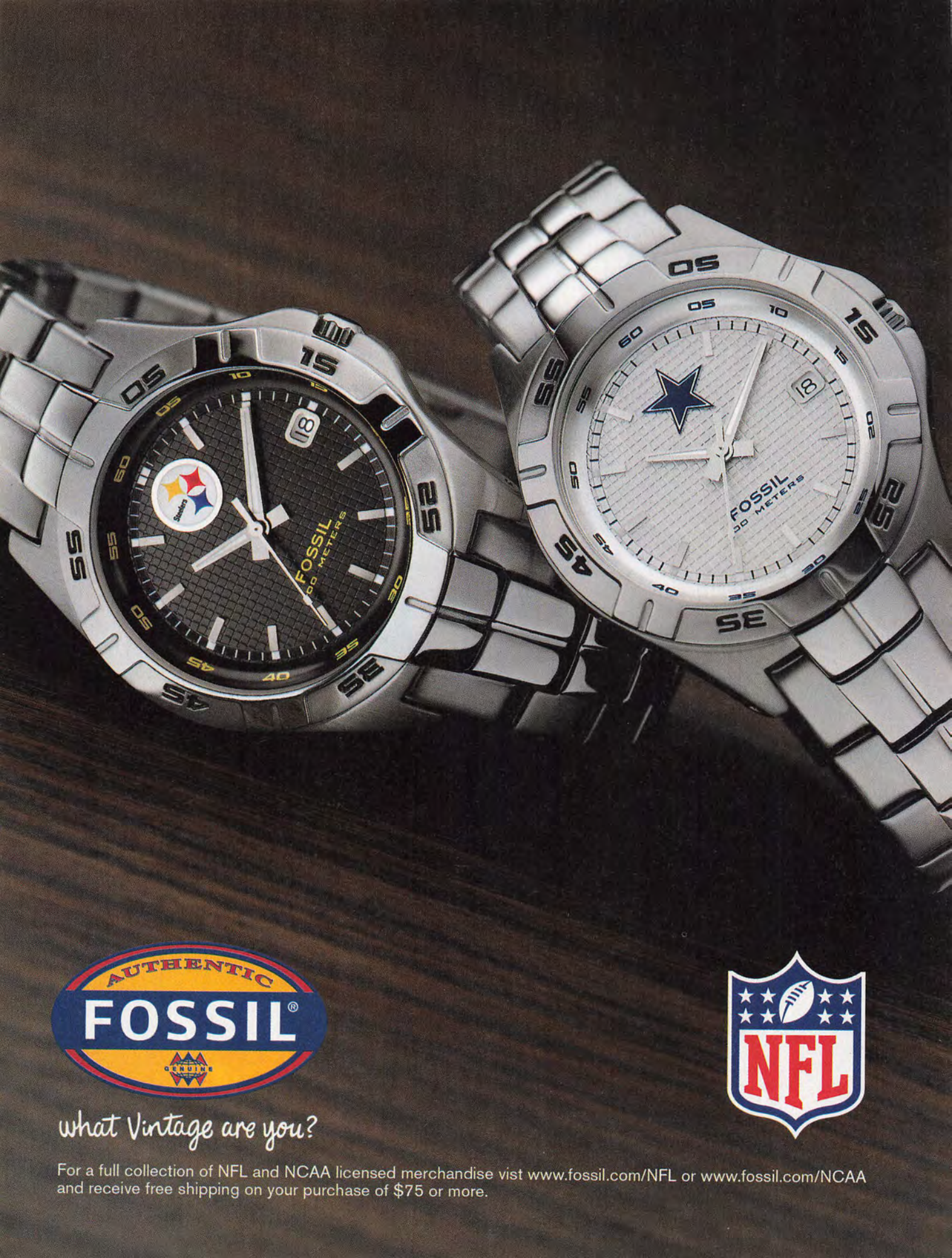


PHOTO BY: MPS/NFL

San Francisco 49ers Hall of Fame head coach Bill Walsh has a conference with backup quarterback Matt Cavanaugh (6) and Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana (16) during the 1984 NFC Championship Game, a 23-0 victory over the Chicago Bears on January 6, 1985, at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.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Wilson, worked with the team's receivers during the preseason, and scouted prospects for the 49ers the rest of the year. When Wilson retired from the game in 1960 he was considered one of its all-time great receivers, having caught 407 passes during his 10 years in San Francisco.

"In 1951, when I was with Buck Shaw we had a little notebook. We just had to get open on our own, we didn't have a system to get us open," said Wilson. "As a receiver it would have been a dream come to true to have been a part of (Walsh's offense). It didn't matter what down it was, he would throw on first or second down and there was always something there. In the era in which I played, they usually didn't throw until they had to, and that made it tougher to get open."

Walsh helped to change all of that, in large part due to his work in Cincinnati in analyzing how quarterbacks read through progressions on passing plays.

Said Wyche, "The quarterback memorized the progression of the receivers. For example, if he had an X, Y, X play, when he took his first step away from center, he was looking at a 'key' player on defense. If that player blitzed he'd throw to the hot receiver. If that defender did not blitz, the quarterback went to the No. 1 receiver. If he was covered, he would go to the No. 2 receiver who should be open. If for some reason No. 2 was covered, he would go to No. 3. And, if for whatever reason that player was covered, you always had a guarantee — 1, 2, 3, guarantee, or, what I call 'save a sack guy.'

"It was a memorized progression. That was the origin of the West Coast Offense, or, as far as I'm concerned it was."

Before then quarterbacks read coverages and found open targets. Walsh encouraged a more disciplined approach that limited how well defenses could mask coverages. And, as Wyche pointed out, even though the fullback or tight end caught a lot of passes in the Walsh system, that player usually was the second or third read.

"If you think about Joe Montana's career, how many times he would hit Dwight Clark running a shallow cross, well many times (Clark) wasn't the primary receiver, he was the No. 2 guy," said Wyche. "Montana was trying to throw the ball down the field."

Yet long the perception of Walsh's offense has been that it made short or intermediate routes the emphasis, not the fall-back option.

Walsh's approach was also effective in disrupting the defense's most effective weapon. "In terms of defense, the position that correlates most to winning is the linebacker because they play the run and the pass," said Giddings. "What happened in the Walsh system was that the backs could get out to catch so fast, and the paths they were taking were similar to the paths they were taking to block. The linebackers couldn't tell what they were going to do." Because of this, linebackers needed to read the offensive tackles in order to determine whether a pass or run was coming their way.

Another misperception was that Walsh preferred the pass over the run. Not true, said White. "Most of his games he was just like everyone else; he finished the game running the ball. He'd get teams adjusting and moving ... he'd window dress with (the skill position) guys and then when the game was on the line he'd run the ball and win with defense."

His success at San Francisco, of course, brought three championships in 10 years, beginning in his third season. When he left the NFL following the 1988 season, Walsh's teams had won 68 of their last 95 games,

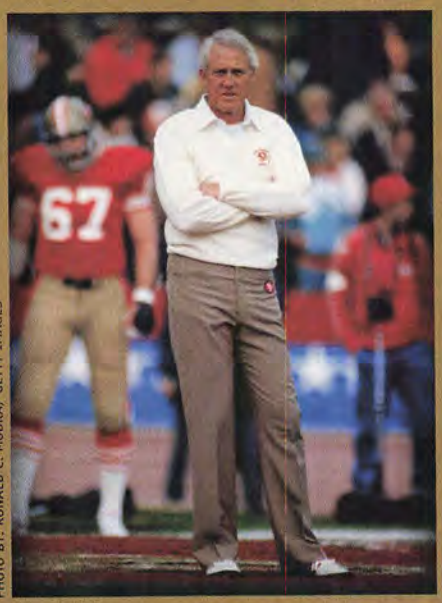

PHOTO BY: RONALD C. MODRA/ GETTY IMAGES

and his passing game had been operating at such a level of efficiency that opponents deemed it near impossible to contain.

Now, a year since Walsh's passing, he is still revered for changing the modern-day passing game. His name is tied to the West Coast Offense, and he is associated with short and horizontal throws.

For White, it was the man who made the system what it was, and not a simple philosophy or a series of Xs and Os that can be duplicated in every corner of the country. "I get a kick out of people who are putting in the West Coast Offense. Well, what are they doing? Someone saying, 'This is the rudiments of the West Coast Offense. I just got it out of this book.' Well, I'm, saying that it's a hell of a lot deeper than that, and it's a hell of a lot more complex than that ... Anyone can grab a West Coast playbook. To me, Bill Walsh stood alone in the ability to adapt that playbook."

Wyche, one of Walsh's many disciples, explained that what people recognize about Walsh's system was the heightened roles taken on by the fullback and tight end — two positions that had been used quite differently in the passing systems that proceeded Walsh's revolutionary thinking.

"The true offense involved a fullback that could catch and run, and be a pass protector," said Wyche, who left the San Francisco staff in 1983 to take the head coaching job at the University of Indiana. "The one thing about that offense was that it was very flexible, and if you didn't have a fullback that could do something you could run the same play from a different formation and save him from something he wasn't good at. The tight end was crucial, and if you didn't have a good one you put a receiver in the game at that spot."

Walsh's coaching tree is well-documented, and in the early 1990s it was viewed as the spreading of the West Coast Offense, even though most of his disciples employed variations that strayed from Walsh's preferences.

Said Wolf, who served as the Packers' general manager from 1991 to 2001, "When Mike Holmgren came to Green Bay, he himself made an awful lot of changes to that offense."

According to White, coaches could not, and did not mimic Walsh; instead, what they took was his offensive language and boilerplate principles.

"You don't duplicate Vince Lombardi. A lot of his assistants weren't successful because they didn't have his temperament," said White. "Well, in Bill's case, it was his creativity and uncanny ability to get the most out of people that got the playbook to come alive.

"There is no parallel to how he made his system work. There's Mike Shanahan and Mike Holmgren and guys all over who are his disciples who've captured what Bill stood for and have taken the system and made it work for them, in their own particular situations. But those who have been tremendously successful learned from Bill how to practice and how to make the offense ready for game-like situations."

Still, it's easy today for fans and football historians to classify Walsh as the originator of the West Coast Offense, even though it does not encompass all of Walsh's ingenuities or fully define his contribution to the coaching profession, most notably to the passing game.

Said White, "His system was bigger than those three words. It's not something you just read in a book and then here comes the end product. Doesn't work that way. His management skills and personnel decisions and ability to add or subtract players is what made it go. The system on the field was his, and I think maybe that's why he was sensitive to it being a word as if it were something you could market or go out and sell.

"The West Coast offense was probably a myth. What Bill Walsh was, and certainly what he accomplished, was not." ■

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NFC EAST

Now's the Time for Dallas

Borrowing a page from the Al Davis playbook, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones not only wants his club to "Just win, baby" — he wants them to "Just win, NOW." Several moves made by Jones during the off-season were designed for 2008, not the future. From signing 35-year-old inside linebacker Zach Thomas. To trading for bad boy Tennessee cornerback Pacman Jones. To using a first-round pick on Mike Jenkins, a talented corner with some off-field baggage of his own. After a 13-3 regular season ended with a resounding thud in a playoff loss to the New York Giants, it's Super Bowl or bust for the Cowboys. But in the ultra-competitive NFC East, just winning the division is tough enough. The Giants, after all, are the defending Super Bowl champions. Philadelphia, although it has leveled off lately, has won five of the past seven division titles. So with a roster that contained 13 Pro Bowlers last season, there is tremendous pressure on coach Wade Phillips to get it done. If he doesn't, Jason Garrett looks like the head coach in waiting. Let the fun begin.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Just what the Cowboys needed — another "wow" player on offense. By picking up Arkansas speedster Felix Jones in the first round of the draft, Jones and Marion Barber could instantly form one of the league's best one-two punches at running back. Quarterback Tony Romo played himself into a lucrative long-term deal last season; now he must earn the money. The Cowboys have one of the game's best tight ends in Jason Witten and the NFC's best wide receiver in Terrell Owens. The defense is deep and talented almost across the board. If Pacman Jones gets on the field and stays there, the secondary will be tough to beat.

NEW YORK GIANTS

The coach got a contract extension. The team visited the White House. The star quarterback got married. It was quite an off-season for the Super Bowl champions. With minimal losses in free agency, and what appears to be a productive draft, the Giants could be primed for another postseason run. Yes, life is good for the G-men and their adoring fans. But as we all know, things can change in a New York minute in the Big Apple. Continued success largely hinges on whether Eli Manning has truly arrived as an NFL quarterback. His low-key personality is such that success won't go to his head. All he needs is more consistency in the regular season.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Eagles faithful, and even some Eagles players, entered the off-season hoping the team would add some juice to the offense. What they got was wide receiver-return man DeSean Jackson and running back Lorenzo Booker. Booker, acquired in a draft weekend trade with Miami, will provide backfield depth behind Brian Westbrook. Jackson's size (169 pounds) makes him too small to be an every-down receiver, but the second-round draft pick has the potential to be a dynamic punt returner. The defense is getting younger with the release of defensive end Jevon Kearse and linebacker Takeo Spikes. It also got greener — $57 million greener — with the signing of cornerback Asante Samuel to a monster six-year deal.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Joe Gibbs couldn't rekindle his old Super Bowl magic, but he did get the Redskins back to the playoffs for the first time since 1999 in his second tour of duty with the club. In fact, he did so twice during his four-year return engagement with the club. But Gibbs has retired, this time for good, and his replacement is unproven Jim Zorn, the former Seattle quarterbacks coach who was originally hired as Washington's offensive coordinator. Zorn will help develop quarterback Jason Campbell. He is installing the West Coast offense, and drafted a plethora of pass catchers (Devin Thomas, Malcolm Kelly and tight end Fred Davis) to help make the system work.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Can Pacman Jones make it through the season without incident?

The odds are better of finding an ugly Cowboys cheerleader. No one doubts Jones' playing ability — but he must confine his playing to the football field in a city known for its gentlemen's clubs.

2. Is the new, improved Tom Coughlin here to stay?

No one's saying he has become Mister Rogers, but there's no reason for Coughlin to return to his gruff, overly intense ways after winning the Super Bowl.

3. What does quarterback Donovan McNabb have left?

McNabb enters his 10th NFL season fully recovered from a torn ACL. But it's debatable whether he can carry an offense on his shoulders like he once did.

4. Why didn't the Redskins shore up their aging defensive line in the offseason?

A good question, particularly since their less than stellar pass rush had only one player with more than five sacks last season.

5. Will Wade Phillips win a playoff game this season?

Maybe a couple. Phillips is 0-4 in postseason play as a head coach in Buffalo, Denver, and now Dallas. But these Cowboys are too deep and too talented.

— Jim Thomas

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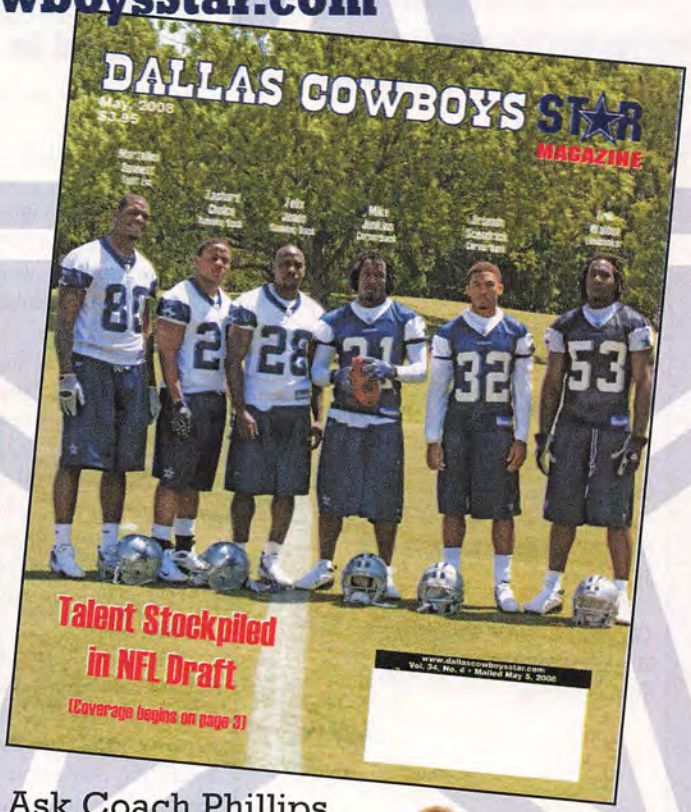

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DALLAS COWBOYS

2007 RECORD: 13-4 | **STADIUM: Texas Stadium, 65,229, Realgrass by SportField** | **PROJECTED FINISH: T2nd**

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AT A GLANCE

Cowboys Center
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Irving, TX 75063
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COACH:
Wade Phillips, 2nd year with Cowboys (13-4), 7th full season as NFL head coach (61-46)

TRAINING CAMP:
Oxnard, Calif.

OWNER/GENERAL MANAGER:
Jerry Jones

COO/EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT/ DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Stephen Jones

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Jason Garrett	*Offensive coordinator	4	2
Wade Wilson	Quarterbacks	8	5
Hudson Houck	Offensive line	27	10
Ray Sherman	Receivers	21	2
Skip Peete	Running backs	11	2
John Garrett	Tight ends	10	2
Wes Phillips	Off. quality control	2	2
Brian Stewart	Defensive coordinator	7	2
Todd Grantham	Defensive line	10	1
Reggie Herring	Linebackers	3	1
Dave Campo	SecondarY.	20	15
Brett Maxie	SecondarY.	11	1
Dat Nguyen	Def quality control/asst	LB	22
Bruce Read	Special teams	7	2
Joe Juraszek	Strength & Conditioning	12	12

*Assistant head coach

Could be Super Bowl or Bust for Wade Phillips

It's Super Bowl or bust for the Cowboys in 2008.

Nothing else matters.

Not after a season in which they went 13-3, sent 13 players to the Pro Bowl and secured home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs, but found themselves one and done in the playoffs again after losing to the eventual Super Bowl champion Giants.

If you are counting, the Cowboys have not won a playoff game since 1996 and have now lost each of their last four appearances in the postseason.

The Cowboys return 21 starters from last season, while adding a Pro Bowl caliber player in linebacker Zach Thomas, provided he can stay healthy.

How desperate is Cowboys owner Jerry Jones to make a Super Bowl run in 2008?

He also traded for suspended cornerback Adam (Pacman) Jones.

"Based on the record we had last year, the regular-season record is going to be hard to match," Jones said. "But I think that we have the potential to have a better team. And so what that means is hopefully we'll have more success in the playoffs and one thing leads to the next."

COACHING

Wade Phillips is truly the Rodney Dangerfield of head coaches: He can't get any respect. He does what Bill Parcells couldn't do in four years with the Cowboys — win the NFC East. He records a franchise-record tying 13 wins. Yet, not only if he doesn't duplicate the mark, but make a Super Bowl run, then he will likely be out of a job. Offensive coordinator Jason Garrett was given a $3 million annual salary to be the head coach in waiting.

Phillips was the right fit and personality to replace Parcells last year. But there is no question he gave the team too much leeway and they let him down with their lack of focus at the end of last season. There was simply no excuse for Tony Romo to take a trip to Cabo before the playoff game against the Giants. If Phillips doesn't put his foot down in 2008 or the Cowboys don't make a Super Bowl run, Garrett could be the one running the show in 2009.

RATING: 8.5

QUARTERBACKS

The reign of Tony Romo has begun. With two Pro Bowls in just two seasons as the Cowboys' starting quarterback, there is no question that he is the team's quarterback of the present and future. Of course, his $68 million contract extension says as much as well. And considering his high-profile personal life with singer Jessica Simpson, he certainly knows how to play the part of America's Team quarterback. But if Romo is the true heir to the throne of Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman, he needs to do something about late-season col-

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Zach Thomas

The Cowboys signed Thomas as a free agent, despite a concussion shortened 2007 season. A healthy Thomas brings Pro Bowl caliber playmaking ability to the interior of the 3-4 alongside Bradie James.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
CB Pacman Jones

KEY LOSS:
If truth be told the Cowboys lost no one they wanted to keep. No one that left in free agency got a counter offer from Cowboys, including RB Julius Jones, CB Jacques Reeves and SS Keith Davis

OTHER LOSSES:
LB Akin Ayodele (16/14), S Keith Davis (14/1), TE Anthony Fasano (16/6), NT Jason Ferguson (1/1), RB Julius Jones (16/16), CB Nate Jones (15/0), CB Jacques Reeves (16/13), RB Tyson Thompson (8/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 10 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

lapses and postseason failures. In two seasons as a starter, Romo is 4-7 in December and January with 11 touchdowns and 14 interceptions. And that includes two first-round playoff exits.

Brad Johnson is back as the backup quarterback. But the team will head into the season looking for a veteran to back up Johnson, whose lack of arm strength makes him unable to make all the throws in the offense.

RATING: 8.5

RUNNING BACKS

The threesome of Marion Barber and rookie draft picks Felix Jones and Tashard Choice are a definite upgrade over last year's running back trio of Barber, Julius Jones and Tyson Thompson.

First, the chemistry is much better. The speedy Felix Jones is the perfect complement to Barber's barbaric running style. Plus, he brings the big play to the Cowboys' offense. Choice can be an every-down alternative if Barber gets hurt.

But the key to it all is Barber, who will be the main cog in a running game for the first time since high school. He shared the load in college and during his first three years in Dallas. The Cowboys are confident he can handle it, based on his 975 yards and 10 rushing touchdowns last year in addition to his 129 yards rushing in his only start in the divisional playoff loss to the Giants.

RATING: 7.5

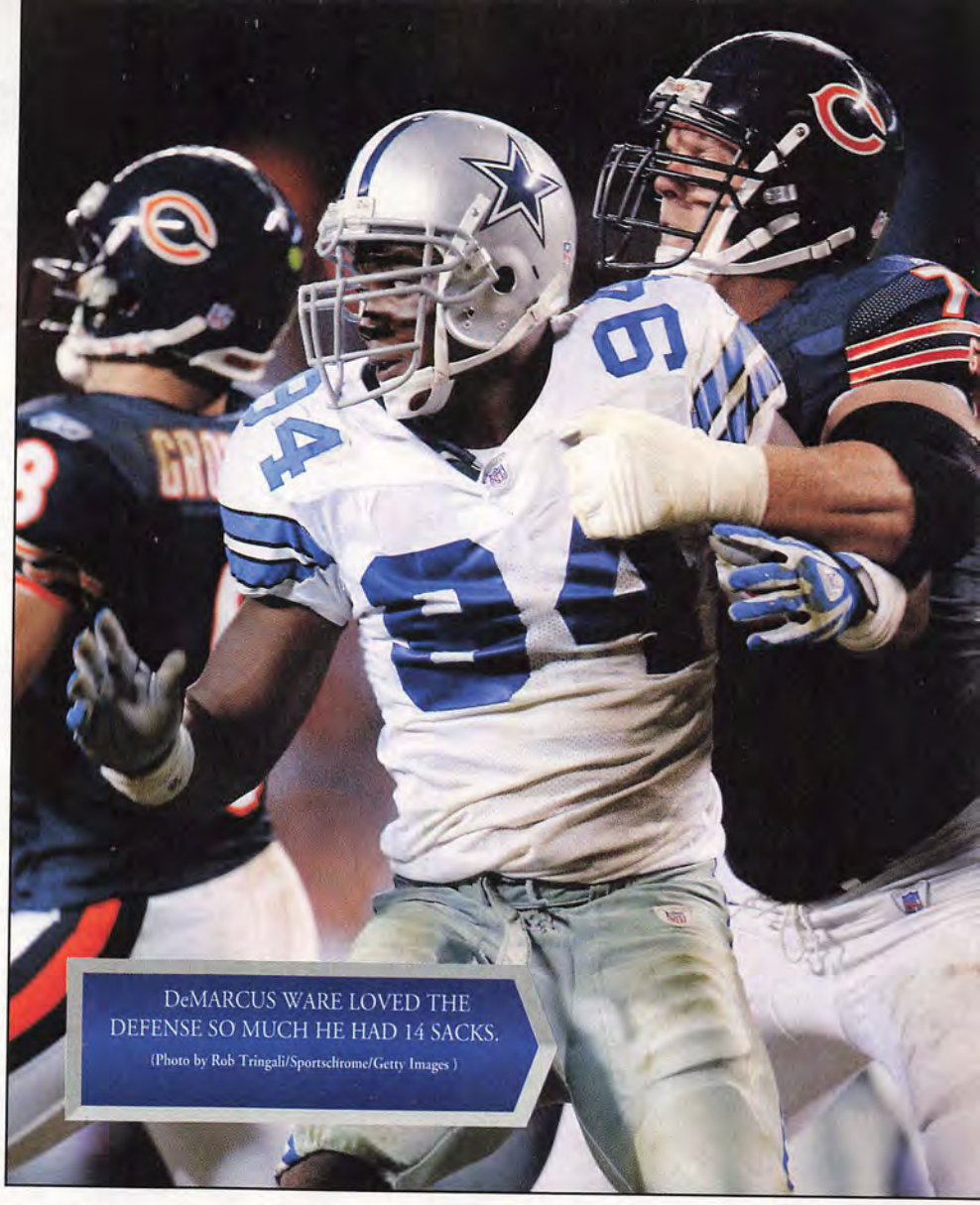
RECEIVERS

Listening to all the talk during the offseason about the Cowboys needing a veteran receiver to put juice in the offense, you would think they were in dire straits.

One day that might be the case — when Terrell Owens is gone or too old to produce.

That day is not today. Owens turns 35 in December, but there is a short list of receivers who performed better last season when he had 81 catches for 1,355 yards — the eighth 1,000-yard season of his career — and 15 touchdowns. Add in tight end Jason Witten, who caught 96 passes and earned his fourth straight Pro Bowl trip, and it's clear quarterback Tony Romo is not lacking for pass catchers. Certainly there is a concern about Terry Glenn being back. He missed 15 games last season. But the Cowboys believe they can get more big plays out of Patrick Crayton and Sam Hurd. They see Crayton's drop against the Giants as an aberration. He notched career-highs in catches, yards and touchdowns last season to prove he is more than capable.

RATING: 8



DeMARCUS WARE LOVED THE DEFENSE SO MUCH HE HAD 14 SACKS.

(Photo by Rob Tringali/Sportschrome/Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

With three Pro Bowlers in center Andre Gurode, tackle Flozell Adams and guard Leonard Davis, there are few worries about the offensive line.

All three are locked up with lucrative long-term contracts. Although 33 years old and mistake prone with five holding penalties and nine false starts last year, the Cowboys gave Adams $15 million in guaranteed money to protect quarterback Tony Romo's blind side.

Davis' trip to the Pro Bowl could be the first step in his journey to greatness. No longer is he considered a bust after supposedly not living up to expectations in Arizona. He's with a winning organization and could put together a string of Pro Bowl trips.

Gurode is as solid as they come at center although he needs to improve his shotgun snaps.

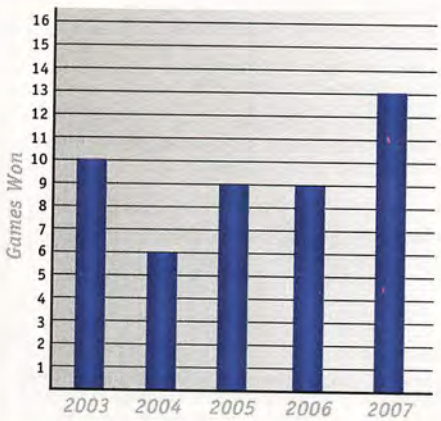
RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

There is nothing dominant about the Cowboys' defensive line. But it is solid, deep and versatile. Jay Ratliff made a strong enough transition from end to nose tackle that the Cowboys sent Jason Ferguson to Miami. Ratliff and Tank Johnson are a solid twosome in the middle. Ends Marcus Spears and Chris Canty are solid, if not spectacular. Jason Hatcher could push Spears for a starting job in 2008. He is the better pass rusher. Spears is better against the run, but is in the final year of his contract and could be phased out.

RATING: 7.5

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2006, 2007*

Cowboys Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
19	Austin, Miles (KR)	6-3	216	3	Monmouth	16/0	CFA 06	CFA DALL 06	Has the speed to make an impact at wide receiver, but needs to improve hands.
80	Bennett, Martellus (TE)	6-6	260	R	Texas A&M	0/0	D2 08	D2 DALL 08	Has the size to be a weapon as a blocker and receiver as a rookie.
84	**Crayton, Patrick**	**6-0**	**205**	**5**	**Northwestern Oklahoma**	**15/13**	**FA 04**	**D7 DALL 04**	**Had career year to prove he can be a No.2, but is known for the drop in the playoffs.**
89	Curtis, Tony (TE)	6-5	265	3	Portland State	16/0	FA 07	CFA DALL 05	Didn't make many catches in 2007, but made the most of it with three touchdowns.
83	Glenn, Terry	5-11	196	13	Ohio State	1/0	T,GB 03	D1 NE 96	Old and coming off injury; he is not someone the Cowboys are counting on.
17	Hurd, Sam	6-2	196	2	Northern Illinois	16/2	CFA 06	CFA DALL 06	Hurd has showed great improvement, but the Cowboys are looking for a bigger jump in 2008.
81	**Owens, Terrell**	**6-3**	**218**	**13**	**Tennessee-Chattanooga**	**15/15**	**FA 06**	**D3 SF 96**	**Will be 35 next year, but if '07 is an example, he is showing no signs of slowing down.**
86	Stanback, Isaiah	6-2	208	2	Washington	2/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	College QB looking to make an impact after using rookie year to learn wide receiver.
82	**Witten, Jason (TE)**	**6-5**	**266**	**6**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D3 03**	**D3 DALL 03**	**The greatest tight end in Cowboys history continues to add to his legacy.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
76	**Adams, Flozell (T)**	**6-7**	**340**	**11**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**D2 98**	**D2 DALL 98**	**Was given $15 million in guaranteed money to protect $68 million investment at QB.**
67	Berger, Joe (G/C)	6-5	304	4	Michigan Tech	1/0	W,MIA 06	D6 CARO 05	Had no impact last year. Will be hard-pressed to make it out of camp.
75	**Colombo, Marc (T)**	**6-8**	**315**	**7**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D1 CHI 02**	**It's a contract year. Another strong campaign could pave the way for a big-money contract.**
70	**Davis, Leonard (G)**	**6-6**	**354**	**8**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**UFA,ARIZ 07**	**D1 ARIZ 01**	**No longer a bust. Davis is a Pro Bowler and the anchor on a dominating line.**
68	Free, Doug (T)	6-6	306	2	Northern Illinois	1/0	D4 07	D4 DALL 07	Had no impact last year. Needs to show some development in 2008.
65	**Gurode, Andre (C)**	**6-4**	**316**	**7**	**Colorado**	**14/14**	**D2 02**	**D2 DALL 02**	**Has found his groove as a two-time Pro Bowler, but must improve shotgun snaps.**
63	**Kosier, Kyle (G)**	**6-5**	**294**	**7**	**Arizona State**	**16/16**	**UFA,DET 06**	**D7 SF 02**	**He is the smallest offensive lineman on the team, but might be the most consistent.**
78	Marten, James (T)	6-7	303	2	Boston College	0/0	D3 07	D3 DALL 07	Didn't play as a rookie. Must improve to give hope he has a future.
77	McQuistan, Pat (T)	6-6	311	3	Weber State	16/0	D7 06	D7 DALL 06	Has developed a role as the third tackle, but could push Kosier at guard.
71	Procter, Cory (C/G)	6-4	297	3	Montana	16/2	FA 05	CFA DET 05	Earned a spot as the primary backup at center. Can play guard in a pinch.
RUNNING BACKS									
34	***Anderson, Deon (FB)**	**5-10**	**241**	**2**	**Connecticut**	**8/4**	**D6 07**	**D6 DALL 07**	**Showed so much promise that last year's starter Oliver Hoyte was released.**
24	**Barber, Marion**	**6-0**	**221**	**4**	**Minnesota**	**16/0**	**D4 05**	**D4 DALL 05**	**Made the Pro Bowl as a part-time performer and backup. Now he is the lead dog.**
29	Choice, Tashard	5-10	215	R	Georgia Tech	0/0	D4 08	D4 DALL 08	Tough and versatile rookie will be the primary every-down backup to Marion Barber.
45	Cruz, Ronnie (FB)	6-0	237	3	Northern State (S.D.)	0/0	FA 08	CFA KC 04	Was signed to provide depth. Will be hard-pressed to make it out of camp.
28	Jones, Felix	6-0	207	R	Arkansas	0/0	D1 08	D1 DALL 08	Speed makes the rookie the perfect complement to Barber's barbaric running style.
QUARTERBACKS									
4	Bartel, Richard	6-3	246	1	Tarleton State	0/0	FA 08	CFA DALL 07	Will head to camp as the No. 3 QB though the Cowboys will still look to add a veteran.
14	Johnson, Brad	6-5	238	16	Florida State	16/0	FA 07	D9 MINN 92	Gives starter Tony Romo another veteran sounding board and also can still play in a pinch.
9	**Romo, Tony**	**6-2**	**224**	**6**	**Eastern Illinois**	**16/16**	**CFA 03**	**CFA DALL 03**	**No one questions his production. But his decision-making remains a concern.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	Bowen, Stephen (E)	6-5	303	3	Hofstra	16/0	FA 06	CFA DALL 06	Has proven to be strong contributor at end and tackle.
99	**Canty, Chris (E)**	**6-7**	**299**	**4**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D4 05**	**D4 DALL 05**	**Size reminds some of Ed (Too Tall) Jones and so does his consistency.**
97	Hatcher, Jason (E)	6-6	298	3	Grambling	16/0	D3 06	D3 DALL 06	Superior pass rush skills could help him push for the starting job at left end.
66	Johnson, Tank (NT)	6-3	300	4	Washington	8/1	FA 07	D2 CHI 04	So far so good in the Tank Johnson rebirth in Dallas. Good player, good teammate.
90	**Ratliff, Jay (NT)**	**6-4**	**298**	**4**	**Auburn**	**15/14**	**D7 05**	**D7 DALL 05**	**Despite strong year at nose; could still be moved back to defensive end.**
64	Siavii, Junior (T)	6-5	330	3	Oregon	0/0	FA 08	D2 KC 04	Brought in for depth at nose tackle. Will be hard-pressed to make roster.
96	**Spears, Marcus (E)**	**6-4**	**305**	**4**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 DALL 05**	**Has not delivered as No. 1 draft pick, but has been solid against the run.**
LINEBACKERS									
57	Burnett, Kevin (I)	6-3	227	4	Tennessee	16/2	D2 05	D2 DALL 05	May never start, but has developed a niche as nickel linebacker.
54	Carpenter, Bobby (I)	6-2	248	3	Ohio State	16/0	D1 06	D1 DALL 06	It's a make or break year for this former first-round bust.
98	**Ellis, Greg (O)**	**6-6**	**265**	**11**	**North Carolina**	**13/10**	**D1 98**	**D1 DALL 98**	**Seems to be getting better with age. Made first Pro Bowl in 2007.**
56	**James, Bradie (I)**	**6-2**	**239**	**6**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D4 03**	**D4 DALL 03**	**Doesn't get the headlines, but gets the tackles and is emotional leader on defense.**
50	Rogers, Justin (O)	6-4	250	2	Southern Methodist	16/0	W,NE 07	D6 NE 07	Makes his primary impact on special teams.
58	Smith, Tyson (O)	6-2	240	2	Iowa State	0/0	FA 08	CFA BLT 05	Was signed for depth, but will have hard time making roster.
93	Spencer, Anthony (O)	6-3	257	2	Purdue	16/6	D1 07	D1 DALL 07	Had rough rookie transition. Should be ready to make big jump in 2008.
55	***Thomas, Zach (M)**	**5-11**	**228**	**13**	**Texas Tech**	**5/5**	**FA 08**	**D5 MIA 96**	**Returns to home state and should be one inside starter as long as he stays healthy.**
53	Walden, Erik	6-2	242	R	Middle Tennessee State	0/0	D6 08	D6 DALL 08	Making the move from college end like Ware and Spencer before him.
94	**Ware, DeMarcus (O)**	**6-4**	**252**	**4**	**Troy**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 DALL 05**	**On such a roll he could threaten the Cowboys all-time sacks record.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	Ball, Alan (CB)	6-1	176	1	Illinois	2/0	D7 07	D7 DALL 07	Had no impact as rookie and the Cowboys drafted other corners.
27	Brown, Courtney (S)	6-1	203	2	Cal Poly-SLO	8/0	D7 07	D7 DALL 07	Special teams standout who could get chance in nickel.
36	Butler, Quincy (CB)	6-1	185	1	Texas Christian	0/0	FA 08	CFA DALL 06	Will be hard-pressed to make the roster because of talented newcomers.
26	**Hamlin, Ken (S)**	**6-2**	**206**	**6**	**Arkansas**	**16/16**	**UFA,SEA 07**	**D2 SEA 03**	**Coming off first Pro Bowl. Hamlin should be here to stay.**
42	**Henry, Anthony (CB)**	**6-1**	**205**	**8**	**South Florida**	**13/10**	**UFA,CLV 05**	**D4 CLV 01**	**Has been hobbled by injuries the past two years. Needs solid 2008.**
31	Jenkins, Mike (CB)	5-10	197	R	South Florida	0/0	D1 08	D1 DALL 08	Is at least expected to be fourth corner and kick return option.
21	*Jones, Pacman (CB)	5-10	185	3	West Virginia	0/0	T,TENN 08	D1 TENN 05	If he gets reinstated will offer immediate help as third cornerback.
41	**Newman, Terence (CB)**	**5-11**	**181**	**6**	**Kansas State**	**13/11**	**D1 03**	**D1 DALL 03**	**Made the Pro Bowl; now in line for big money extension.**
23	Oglesby, Evan (CB)	5-10	185	3	North Alabama	8/0	W,BLT 07	CFA BUFF 05	Will get passed by rookie newcomers if he doesn't step up.
32	Scandrick, Orlando (CB)	5-10	192	R	Boise State	0/0	D5 08	D5 DALL 08	Rookie should make impact on special teams and provide depth.
25	Watkins, Patrick (S)	6-5	208	3	Florida State	14/0	D5 06	D5 DALL 06	Has the athletic ability to make more plays against the pass.
38	**Williams, Roy (S)**	**6-0**	**225**	**7**	**Oklahoma**	**15/13**	**D1 02**	**D1 DALL 02**	**He is changing numbers from 31 to 38. But will he be the same liability in coverage?**
43	Wishom, Jerron (CB)	6-0	197	2	Louisiana Tech	0/0	FA 08	CFA HOUS 05	One of many corners unlikely to make it out of training camp.
SPECIALISTS									
6	Folk, Nick (K)	6-1	222	2	Arizona	16/0	D6 07	D6 DALL 07	Made the Pro Bowl as a rookie. The Cowboys can't wait to see what he will do for an encore.
91	Ladouceur, L.P. (LS)	6-4	251	4	California	16/0	FA 05	CFA NO 05	If he is not the best snapper in the league, it won't take long to call roll.
1	McBriar, Mat (P)	6-1	224	5	Hawaii	16/0	FA 04	CFA DEN 03	Can boom kicks with the best, but also has the skill to down them inside the 20.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR's Danny Amendola (Texas Tech), Mark Bradford (Stanford), Michael Jefferson (1, Montana State), Daniel Polk (Midwestern State), Joe West (Texas-El Paso); TEs Drew Atchison (William & Mary), Rodney Hannah (1, Houston); OG Brandon Hale (Sam Houston State); RBs Alonzo Coleman (1, Hampton), Julius Crosslin (Oklahoma State), Keon Lattimore (Maryland); DEs Marcus Dixon (Hampton), Khari Long (1, Baylor), Marcus Smith (1, Arizona); DT Remi Ayodele (1, Oklahoma); LBs Alain Karatepeyan (Tulsa), Tearrius George (Kansas State), Darrell Robertson (Georgia Tech); CB Justin Phinisee (1, Oregon); Ss Dowayne David (Syracuse), Tyler Everett (1, Ohio State); P Jay Ottovegio (Stanford).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Running back Marion Barber is being asked to be a full-time back for the first time since high school. He shared the role in college at Minnesota. And he has shared it in Dallas with Julius Jones for the first three years of his career. He has the size and mentality to do it, but until you have done it, you haven't done it.
2. Wade Phillips is still the head coach, but offensive coordinator Jason Garrett is the unquestioned head coach in waiting. If Phillips doesn't win big in 2008, look for Garrett to take over in 2009.
3. Pacman Jones is on everybody's watch list. First there's the question of his reinstatement. Commissioner Roger Goodell said he was not going to make a decision until training camp. But even then the question will remain whether he can stay out of trouble.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Flozell Adams

Owner Jerry Jones was sitting in his office negotiating a long-term contract with left tackle Flozell Adams. It was the final hours before free agency. Jones had to get a deal done or watch Adams likely get away to Miami and former coach Bill Parcells as a free agent. The thought was ominous for Jones. but it was downright unbearable for Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, who phoned Jones and told him in no uncertain terms to do whatever he could to keep Adams.

Shortly thereafter the Cowboys re-signed Adams to a six-year, $42 million contract extension, including $15 million guaranteed. Although Adams played in four of the last five Pro Bowls, he was an enigma for the Cowboys. In the team's mind, he has yet to play to his full potential. They question his work ethic. Plus he is 33 years old and has a history of knee problems. Jones had serious doubts about committing that type of money to Adams.

But in the end, the Cowboys had no choice because they had no real alternative. A team with Super Bowl aspirations can't have a hole at left tackle. Besides, the $42 million to Adams is insurance for the $68 million they have invested in Romo.

LINEBACKERS

DeMarcus Ware blew up in Phillips' aggressive 3-4 defense. He registered 80 tackles, 14 sacks and 27 pressures. Greg Ellis also had a career year with 12.5 sacks despite coming off a torn Achilles tendon that sidelined him in 2006. Ellis was named the league's Comeback Player of the Year and was voted to the Pro Bowl for the first time.

Inside linebacker Bradie James led the team in tackles and is the quarterback of the defense. He will get some help on the interior in 2008 from free-agent signee Zach Thomas, who will replace Akin Ayodele at the weak-side inside linebacker spot. Whoever plays that position is supposed to be the leading tackler in Phillips' defense. Ayodele finished fourth last year, prompting Phillips to seek out Thomas as an upgrade.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

The Cowboys have made serious upgrades at cornerback with the acquisition of Jones (if he is reinstated) and rookie draft picks Mike Jenkins and Orlando Scandrick. Add them to the starting tandem of Terence Newman and Anthony Henry and the Cowboys have a group capable of staying with any receiving corps in the league.

Free safety Ken Hamlin is the leader in the secondary, coming off a career year in which he made his first Pro Bowl. The only question mark is Pro Bowl strong safety Roy Williams, who has proven to be more hype than substance. Williams remains a feared hitter, but he is such a liability in coverage that the Cowboys take him off the field in obvious passing situations.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cowboys have a Pro Bowl punter and Pro Bowl kicker in Mat McBriar and Nick Folk, respectively. Suffice it to say the kicking game is in great shape. Now the Cowboys are bidding to build an all-star caliber return game. Rookie draft picks Felix Jones and Mike Jenkins and the newly signed Jones are all game-breaking kick returners. Add them to the steady and dangerous Terence Newman and Miles Austin and the Cowboys have a chance to be truly special on special teams in 2008.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The Cowboys added a sideshow in suspended cornerback Pacman Jones to an already circus-like atmosphere with quarterback Tony Romo and Jessica Simpson and receiver Terrell Owens. Will they put on a show in 2008 or be a spectacle?

RATING: Minus 1

Clarence E. Hill Jr.

2007 RESULTS

Record: 13-4

Sep. 9	N.Y. GIANTS	45-35
Sep. 16	at Miami	37-20
Sep. 23	at Chicago	34-10
Sep. 30	ST. LOUIS	35- 7
Oct. 8	at Buffalo (Mon.)	25-24
Oct. 14	NEW ENGLAND	27-48
Oct. 21	MINNESOTA	24-14
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Philadelphia	38-17
Nov. 11	at N.Y. Giants	31-20
Nov. 18	WASHINGTON	28-23
Nov. 22	N.Y. JETS (Thu.)	34- 3
Nov. 29	GREEN BAY (Thu.)	37-27
Dec. 9	at Detroit	28-27
Dec. 16	PHILADELPHIA	6-10
Dec. 22	at Carolina (Sat.)	20-13
Dec. 30	at Washington	6-27
Jan 13	N.Y. GIANTS	17-21

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at San Diego (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at Denver (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 22	HOUSTON (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 28	MINNESOTA	7:00
Sep. 7	at Cleveland	4:15
Sep 15	PHILADELPHIA (Mon.)	7:30
Sep 21	at Green Bay	7:15
Sep 28	WASHINGTON	3:15
Oct 5	CINCINNATI	3:15
Oct 12	at Arizona	1:15
Oct 19	at St. Louis	12:00
Oct 26	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Nov 2	at N.Y. Giants	4:15
Nov 9	OPEN DATE	
Nov 16	at Washington	8:15
Nov 23	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00
Nov 27	SEATTLE (Thu.)	3:15
Dec 7	at Pittsburgh	4:15
Dec 14	N.Y. GIANTS	7:15
Dec 20	BALTIMORE (Sat.)	7:15
Dec 28	at Philadelphia	1:00

NEW YORK GIANTS

2007 RECORD: 14-6 | STADIUM: Giants Stadium, 80,242, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC EAST

www.giants.com

AT A GLANCE

Giants Stadium
East Rutherford, NY 07073
(201) 935-8111

TRAINING CAMP:
University at Albany; Albany, NY

COACH:
Tom Coughlin, 5th year with Giants (39-31), 13th year as NFL head coach (111-95)

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER:
Jerry Reese

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Dave Gettleman

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Marc Ross

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Kevin Gilbride	Offensive coordinator	19	5
Chris Palmer	Quarterbacks	19	2
Pat Flaherty	Offensive line	9	5
Dave DeGuglielmo	Asst. offensive line	5	5
Jerald Ingram	Running backs	14	5
Mike Sullivan	Receivers	7	5
Michael Pope	Tight ends	26	18
Sean Ryan	Offensive assistant	2	2
Steve Spagnuolo	Defensive coordinator	10	2
Mike Waufle	Defensive line	11	5
Bill Sheridan	Linebackers	4	4
Peter Giunta	Secondary	18	3
David Merritt	Asst. secondary	8	5
Andre Curtis	Def. quality control	3	3
Tom Quinn	Special teams	3	3
Thomas McGaughey	Special teams asst.	6	2
Jerry Palmieri	Strength & Cond.	14	5
Markus Paul	Strength & Cond.	11	2

Giants Know Super Bowl Euphoria is Short-Lived

As late as the fourth quarter of their 15th regular-season game, there was some doubt whether the New York Giants would even make the NFL's post-season party. They trailed the Buffalo Bills by four points, and still needed a victory to solidify a playoff spot.

And they had the undefeated New England Patriots on tap for their finale.

However, three big touchdown plays carried them to the win in Buffalo. Then a strong performance against the Pats propelled them into one unbelievable four-game ride, climaxed by coach Tom Coughlin holding the Vince Lombardi Trophy, signifying the win over the no-longer-perfect Patriots in Super Bowl XLII.

You pick the best word to describe the Giants' transformation from a struggling 10-6 wild-card team to World Champions. It was a team that gave up a ghastly 80 points in losing its first two games to teams it would again face in the post-season.

It was a team that put together six straight wins, but five against teams that could only dream about the post-season. It was a team that was destroyed by so-so Minnesota, one of five losses in eight games at Giants Stadium.

But it also was a team that stuck together, particularly on the road. It was a team that won 11 straight games away from home, including one in London and the big one Feb. 3 at the University of Phoenix Stadium.

Now it is a team that is being dismissed as a one-year wonder with a still question-mark quarterback who just happened to play his best in the four games that counted the most.

"I still don't know if we get much respect," said that quarterback, Eli Manning, who followed brother Peyton onto the platform as Super Bowl MVP. "No matter that we won it all, we will still be the underdog.

"But we can still become a better team. Last year we got hot at the end of the season, If we can keep that attitude, we can be an even better team this time around."

COACHING

Coughlin's job was secured by late season, the only question was for how long? The Super Bowl title not only gave him a boost for the one year remaining on his deal, but three more at an average of better than $5 million per season. Much was made about the change in Coughlin during 2007, but he remains the same disciplined man with strong values who just learned to lighten up a little at times. He started a players' council for input into some decisions. And the players bought into it — the locker room remained tranquil even through the tough times, and the players responded to his methods more than they had in the past.

RATING: 9

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
S Sammy Knight

Free safety Gibril Wilson has gone to Oakland, and some day first-round pick Kenny Phillips will take over that role. But for now the journeyman Knight will be counted on to add leadership and stability to what could be a very young secondary.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
QB David Carr, LB Danny Clark

KEY LOSS:
LB Kawika Mitchell (16/16)*
While Wilson was a sometimes dynamic player, no one made more big plays for the Giants than Mitchell did last year from his weak-side linebacker spot. The Giants got more than they bargained for in their one-year, $1 million investment.

OTHER LOSSES:
DT Russell Davis (11/0), FB Jim Finn (0/0), DT William Joseph (0/0), LS Ryan Kuehl (0/0), LB Reggie Torbor (16/5), S Gibril Wilson (13/13), DT Manny Wright (6/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 11 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

QUARTERBACK

Manning had some of his worst games right before he had his best. He was just 25-of-67 for 295 yards in back-to-back bad-weather games against Washington and Buffalo. He threw for four touchdowns, however, in the loss to New England, a game which got him prepped for a strong post-season that saw him throw just one interception among 119 passes. Is he ready to join that elite quarterback group? Perhaps, but he needs to show the consistency over a full season before he can make that step. David Carr, like Manning once a first overall pick in the draft, and rookie Andre Woodson could unseat Anthony Wright and Jared Lorenzen as the little-used backups.

RATING: 8

RUNNING BACKS

No Tiki, no problem. The Giants rushed for 2,148 yards last year with a committee replacing the retired Barber. Big Brandon Jacobs led the way with 1,009 yards despite missing five games with knee and hamstring injuries. The oft-injured Derrick Ward added 602 yards before going out for the season at the midpoint. Rookie Ahmad Bradshaw burst into the picture at year's end and led the team with 208 yards in the post-season. Add veteran Reuben Droughns and young Danny Ware and you have a very deep group. Blocking fullback Madison Hedgecock was a gift from heaven when he plopped into their laps via waivers from St. Louis early in the season.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

Plaxico Burress gutted it out for much of the season with his ankle injury, a torn tendon that would have sidelined many. It was fitting he caught the game-winning touchdown at the end of the Super Bowl since he was the team's most important player. Veteran Amani Toomer wants to give it another (13th) try after making some clutch receptions in '07. But they are lining up to replace him: the so-far disappointing Sinorice Moss, post-season star Steve Smith, David Tyree of the immaculate helmet catch, kick returner Domenik Hixon and third-round draft pick Mario Manningham.

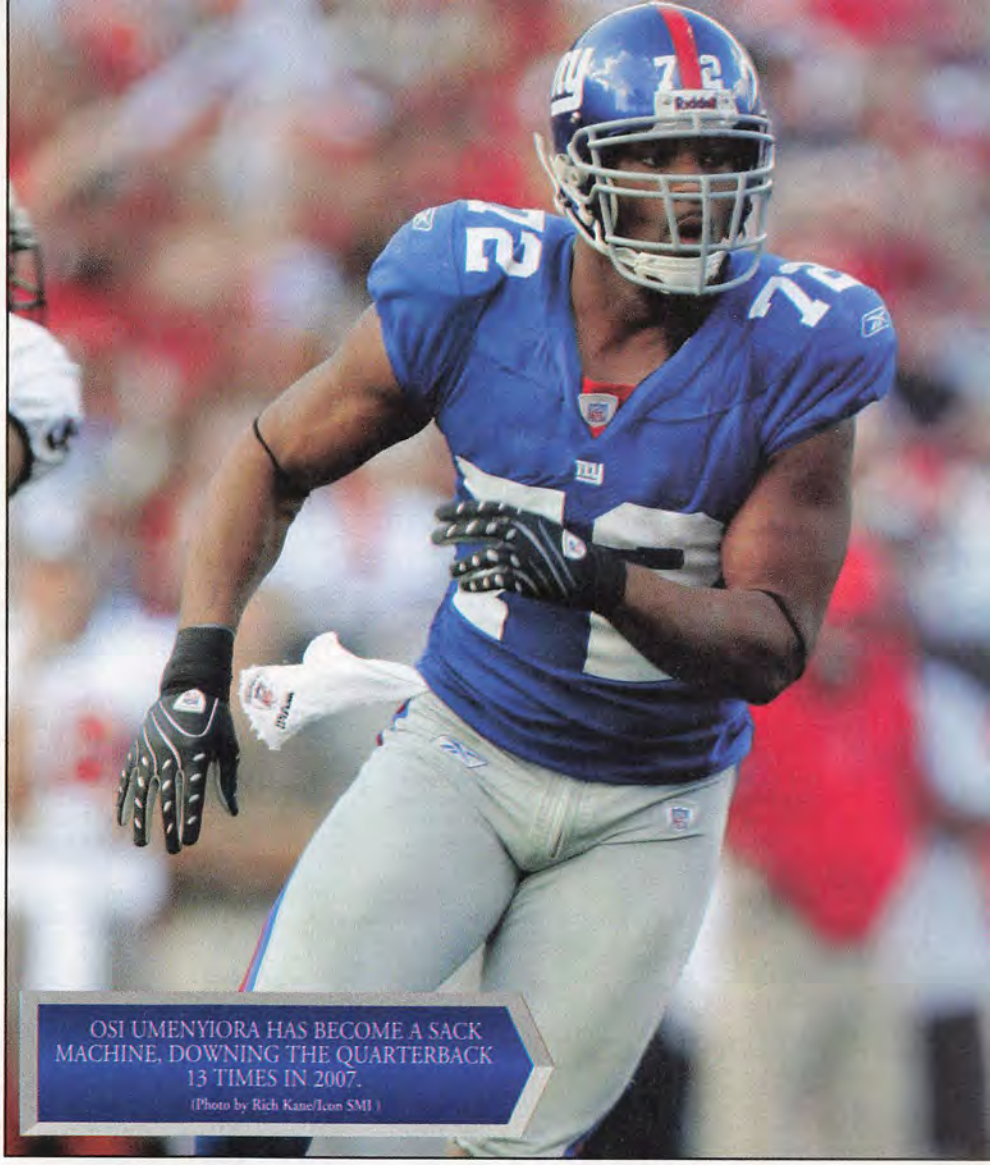
Jeremy Shockey remains a pain in the butt and a darn good all-around tight end. Kevin Boss and Mike Matthews earned some good experience while Shockey sat out the post-season.

RATING: 8

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The great experiment of shifting David Diehl out to left tackle went well enough for the Giants to rank fourth in NFL rushing and allow just 28 sacks. Diehl has started in four different spots and is a lunch-pail guy like the rest of the unit: center Shaun O'Hara, guards Chris Snee and Rich Seubert, and right tackle Kareem McKenzie. The group is close-knit both on and off the field. The Giants did not draft any linemen meaning they are happy with the backup contingent of veteran Grey Ruegamer and youngsters Guy Whimper, Kevin Boothe and Adam Koets.

RATING: 8.5



OSI UMENYIORA HAS BECOME A SACK MACHINE, DOWNING THE QUARTERBACK 13 TIMES IN 2007.
(Photo by Rich Kane/Icon SMI)

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

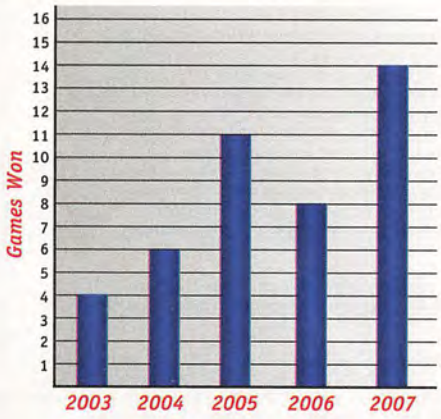
The front four showed the world how to beat the Pats: pressure Tom Brady, then pressure him some more. After sitting out training camp contemplating retirement, Michael Strahan showed up rejuvenated enough to collect nine sacks, plus two more in the post-season. He once again was thinking about calling it a career. Osi Umenyiora can be a game-changer at times and still is adding to his arsenal at end. But the guy to watch is Justin Tuck, who could have been the Super Bowl MVP. He can play end or tackle and despite starting just two games had 10 sacks and another pair in the playoffs. Tackles Fred Robbins and Barry Cofield are more than adequate with second-year man Jay Alford in reserve.

RATING: 9

LINEBACKERS

Mathias Kiwanuka was just learning what linebacking is all about when he broke his leg in Game 10 against Detroit. He remains the starter on the strong side, at least until Strahan retires and he may be needed back at defensive end. Antonio Pierce is the defensive leader in the middle, while young Gerris Wilkinson and free-agent addition

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005, 2006, 2007*

Giants Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	Boss, Kevin (TE)	6-6	253	2	Western Oregon	13/2	D5 07	D5 NYG 07	Filled in admirably for Shockey in playoffs; eventual No. 1 at spot.
17	**Burress, Plaxico**	**6-5**	**232**	**9**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**UFA,PITT 05**	**D1 PITT 00**	**Makes the offense hum with his defense-stretching ability and sure hands.**
86	Collins, Jerome (TE)	6-4	267	2	Notre Dame	0/0	FA 07	D5 STL 05	Signed after Shockey was hurt; long-shot to make roster this time.
87	Hixon, Domenik	6-2	182	2	Akron	16/1	W,DEN 07	D4 DEN 06	Tough, fast special teamer who Giants think has future as a receiver.
15	*Jennings, Michael	5-11	181	3	Florida State	0/0	FA 06	CFA NE 04	Speed guy looked to have team made when his Achilles popped in preseason.
84	*Johnson, Darcy (TE)	6-5	252	2	UCF	0/0	FA 06	CFA NYG 06	Slated to be No. 2 tight end before camp knee injury; blocking is his forte.
82	Manningham, Mario	5-11	183	R	Michigan	0/0	D3 08	D3 NYG 08	Lots of talent, but some teams character-flagged him off draft boards.
88	Matthews, Michael (TE)	6-4	270	2	Georgia Tech	16/6	CFA 07	CFA NYG 07	Did decent job as blocker, not much of a pass-catching threat.
83	Moss, Sinorice	5-8	185	3	Miami	13/2	D2 06	D2 NYG 06	Disappointing, injury-plagued receiver must show something this year.
80	***Shockey, Jeremy (TE)**	**6-5**	**251**	**7**	**Miami**	**14/14**	**D1 02**	**D1 NYG 02**	**Few if any in organization think team would be better without him.**
12	Smith, Steve	5-11	195	2	Southern Cal	5/0	D2 07	D2 NYG 07	After getting healthy, came on late to become frontrunner for No. 3 role.
81	**Toomer, Amani**	**6-3**	**203**	**13**	**Michigan**	**16/15**	**D2 96**	**D2 NYG 96**	**Veteran ready for 13th season, still comes up with those clutch grabs.**
85	Tyree, David	6-0	206	6	Syracuse	12/0	D6 03	D6 NYG 03	Super Bowl hero actually might have tough time making final roster.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
77	Boothe, Kevin (G)	6-5	315	3	Cornell	1/0	W,OAK 07	D6 OAK 06	Former Raiders starter only dressed for two games as backup guard.
66	**Diehl, David (T/G)**	**6-5**	**319**	**6**	**Illinois**	**16/16**	**D5 03**	**D5 NYG 03**	**Made seamless switch to left tackle despite occasional problem vs. speed rusher.**
70	Goddard, Na'Shan (T)	6-5	315	2	South Carolina	0/0	FA 08	CFA NYG 06	Returned from stay with Jets to grab spot on practice squad.
61	Koets, Adam (T/G)	6-5	300	2	Oregon State	0/0	D6 07	D6 NYG 07	Only '07 draftee not to contribute; dressed only for Bucs playoff game.
67	**McKenzie, Kareem (T)**	**6-6**	**327**	**8**	**Penn State**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYJ 05**	**D3 NYJ 01**	**Solid veteran on the right side, particularly in the running game.**
60	**O'Hara, Shaun (C)**	**6-3**	**303**	**9**	**Rutgers**	**16/16**	**UFA,CLV 04**	**CFA CLV 00**	**Leader of offensive line, blue-collar, smart with touch of feistiness.**
65	Ruegamer, Grey (C/G)	6-4	299	10	Arizona State	16/0	UFA,GB 06	D3 MIA 99	Valuable reserve filled in nicely at center in playoff win over Bucs.
69	**Seubert, Rich (G)**	**6-3**	**310**	**8**	**Western Illinois**	**16/16**	**CFA 01**	**CFA NYG 01**	**Capped comeback from horrific broken leg in '03 with Super Bowl ring.**
76	**Snee, Chris (G)**	**6-3**	**317**	**5**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 NYG 04**	**Most talented of group, Coughlin's son-in-law will be in contract year.**
79	Whimper, Guy (T)	6-5	302	3	East Carolina	16/0	D4 06	D4 NYG 06	Showed enough in spots to be considered as starting tackle some day.
RUNNING BACKS									
44	Bradshaw, Ahmad	5-9	198	2	Marshall	12/0	D7 07	D7 NYG 07	His 88-yard burst sealed Buffalo win; earned him chance to run in playoffs.
24	*Douglas, Robert (FB)	6-1	230	2	Memphis	1/0	FA 06	CFA TENN 05	Undersized blocker spent bulk of season on injured reserve with knee injury.
22	Droughns, Reuben	5-11	220	8	Oregon	16/1	T,NYG 07	D3 DET 00	Became short-yardage man as main role lessened with Bradshaw's emergence.
36	Harris, Kay-Jay	6-0	240	2	West Virginia	0/0	FA 08	CFA MIA 05	One-time Ram caught on as practice-squadder late in 2007 season.
39	**Hedgecock, Madison (FB)**	**6-3**	**266**	**4**	**North Carolina**	**16/9**	**W,STL 07**	**D7 STL 05**	**Giants were happy to welcome him as blocker after Rams let him go.**
27	**Jacobs, Brandon**	**6-4**	**264**	**4**	**Southern Illinois**	**11/9**	**D4 05**	**D4 NYG 05**	**Big guy gets nicked a lot, but managed team-high 1,009 yards in 11 games.**
34	*Ward, Derrick	5-11	228	5	Ottawa, Kansas	8/5	FA 04	D7 NYJ 04	Best all-around back, but never stays on the field long enough to show it.
28	Ware, Danny	6-0	234	1	Georgia	1/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 07	Like Ward, plucked off Jets practice squad for service down the road.
QUARTERBACKS									
8	Carr, David	6-3	216	7	Fresno State	6/4	FA 08	D1 HOUS 02	One-time No. 1 pick looking to regroup in probable pit-stop with Giants.
13	Lorenzen, Jared	6-4	285	4	Kentucky	2/0	CFA 04	CFA NYG 04	Dropped from No. 2 to No. 3 last year; must fight to hold that spot.
10	**Manning, Eli**	**6-4**	**225**	**5**	**Mississippi**	**16/16**	**T,SD 04**	**D1 SD 04**	**Was playoff run the next step, or just an aberration? This year will tell.**
3	Woodson, Andre'	6-4	227	R	Kentucky	0/0	D6 08	D6 NYG 08	Draftee has edge over fellow Kentucky product Lorenzen for No. 3 spot.
2	Wright, Anthony	6-1	211	9	South Carolina	3/0	UFA,CIN 07	CFA PITT 99	Backup most of last year probably will be squeezed out by addition of Carr.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Alford, Jay (T)	6-3	304	2	Penn State	16/0	D3 07	D3 NYG 07	Handled kick-snaps all year; worked way into tackle rotation later on.
96	**Cofield, Barry (T)**	**6-4**	**306**	**3**	**Northwestern**	**16/15**	**D4 06**	**D4 NYG 06**	**Steady but not spectacular, occasionally builds an inside pass rush.**
90	Henderson, Robert (E)	6-3	278	R	Southern Mississippi	0/0	D6 08	D6 NYG 08	Giants spent sixth-round pick on guy they think can rush the passer.
74	Leisle, Rodney (T)	6-3	315	4	UCLA	0/0	FA 08	D5 NO 05	Former Saint looking to earn the No. 4 tackle slot in training camp.
98	**Robbins, Fred (T)**	**6-4**	**317**	**9**	**Wake Forest**	**16/15**	**UFA,MINN 04**	**D2 MINN 00**	**Not as noticeable as he was in '06, still made some plays in '07.**
92	**Strahan, Michael (E)**	**6-5**	**255**	**16**	**Texas Southern**	**16/15**	**D2 93**	**D2 NYG 93**	**Looks like he'll give it another go after strong 15th season.**
71	Tollefson, Dave (E)	6-4	255	2	Northwest Missouri State	6/0	FA 07	D7 GB 06	October pickup from Raiders did most of his work on special teams.
91	Tuck, Justin (E)	6-5	274	4	Notre Dame	16/2	D3 05	D3 NYG 05	Could have been Super Bowl MVP; best defensive player on team.
72	**Umenyiora, Osi (E)**	**6-3**	**261**	**6**	**Troy**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 NYG 03**	**Has his big games and others where he kind of blends in with rest.**
LINEBACKERS									
57	Blackburn, Chase (M)	6-3	247	4	Akron	16/0	CFA 05	CFA NYG 05	One of special teams leaders and adequate backup to Pierce in the middle.
55	Clark, Danny (O)	6-2	245	9	Illinois	13/8	UFA,HOU 08	D7 JAX 00	Journeyman began with Coughlin in Jacksonville; has starting experience.
52	Daniels, Tank (O)	6-3	248	2	Harding	4/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 06	Former Eagle signed from practice squad for depth and special teams duty.
51	DeOssie, Zak (O)	6-4	249	2	Brown	16/0	D4 07	D4 NYG 07	Punt-snapper as rookie; may get a chance to show linebacker skill in '08.
94	Goff, Jonathan (M)	6-2	236	R	Vanderbilt	0/0	D5 08	D5 NYG 08	Intelligent fifth-round pick will vie for backup spot in the middle.
53	Kehl, Brian (O)	6-2	237	R	Brigham Young	0/0	D4 08	D4 NYG 08	Some think Giants got steal tabbing this heady 'backer in fourth round.
97	***Kiwanuka, Mathias (O)**	**6-5**	**265**	**3**	**Boston College**	**10/9**	**D1 06**	**D1 NYG 06**	**Long-term future still up in air; former DE remains a 'backer for now.**
54	O'Neil, Keith (O)	6-0	240	5	Northern Arizona	0/0	FA 08	CFA DALL 03	Former Colt and Cowboy looking for job based on special teams skills.
58	**Pierce, Antonio (M)**	**6-1**	**238**	**8**	**Arizona**	**16/16**	**UFA,WSH 05**	**CFA WSH 01**	**Signal-caller and emotional leader from his middle linebacker spot.**
59	**Wilkinson, Gerris (O)**	**6-3**	**231**	**3**	**Georgia Tech**	**13/0**	**D3 06**	**D6 NYG 06**	**Athletic, fast linebacker had best game vs. Pats in regular-season finale.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
37	**Butler, James (S)**	**6-3**	**215**	**4**	**Georgia Tech**	**13/12**	**CFA 05**	**CFA NYG 05**	**Not the quickest cat in litter; had nine tackles in Super Bowl XLII.**
35	Dockery, Kevin (CB)	5-8	188	3	Mississippi State	13/6	CFA 06	CFA NYG 06	Good slot coverage man who has had injury problems two seasons.
20	Johnson, Michael (S)	6-2	207	2	Arizona	16/5	D7 07	D7 NYG 07	Seventh-round surprise started five games and played in sub packages.
26	**Knight, Sammy (S)**	**6-1**	**215**	**12**	**Southern Cal**	**16/15**	**UFA,JAX 08**	**CFA NO 97**	**Signed to replace Gibril Wilson after four-theft, 79-tackle year with Jags.**
29	Madison, Sam (CB)	5-11	180	12	Louisville	16/15	FA 06	D2 MIA 97	Turned back clock with solid season that included four interceptions.
25	McQuarters, R.W. (CB)	5-10	194	11	Oklahoma State	16/2	UFA,DET 06	D1 SF 98	Valuable reserve/returner nevertheless in battle with all the youth.
21	Phillips, Kenny (S)	6-2	210	R	Miami	0/0	D1 08	D1 NYG 08	First-round draft pick Giants hope will become a big playmaker.
33	Pope, Geoffrey (CB)	6-0	186	1	Howard	0/0	FA 07	CFA MIA 07	Had to play vs. Dallas in playoffs, did nice job in only defensive action.
31	**Ross, Aaron (CB)**	**6-0**	**197**	**2**	**Texas**	**15/9**	**D1 07**	**D1 NYG 07**	**Top pick in '07 showed promise as a press coverage cornerback.**
30	Thomas, Terrell (CB)	6-0	199	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D2 08	D2 NYG 08	No. 2 draft pick isn't the fastest but, is tough, physical corner.
23	**Webster, Corey (CB)**	**6-0**	**202**	**4**	**Louisiana State**	**14/3**	**D2 05**	**D2 NYG 05**	**Came off bench to resurrect career with sensational postseason.**
SPECIALISTS									
18	Feagles, Jeff (P)	6-1	215	21	Miami	16/0	UFA,SEA 03	CFA NE 88	Probably punting into his 90s; remains effective directional booter.
9	Tynes, Lawrence (K)	6-1	202	5	Troy	16/0	T,KC 07	CFA KC 01	Started slowly, but made one of biggest kicks in team lore against Pack.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs D.J. Hall (Alabama), Brandon London (1, Massachusetts), Todd Lowber (1, Ramapo); OTs Brandon Torrey (1, Howard), Dylan Thiry (Northwestern); OG Andrew Bain (Miami), C Digger Bujnoch (Cincinnati); DEs Antonio Reynolds (Tennessee), Wallace Gilberry (Alabama); DTs Josh Muse (Louisiana Tech), Ogemdi Nwagbuo (Michigan State); LB Rory Johnson (1, Mississippi); CB Darren Barnett (1, Missouri State); S Nehemiah Warrick (Michigan State); P Owen Tolson (Army).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Will there be any Super Bowl hangover? The Giants get an early test with NFC East rival Washington in the opening Thursday night game. Will they still be basking in the well-deserved honor they achieved last year? Or will they look to enjoy that basking again this year?
2. Will the young players continue to mature? The Giants were the third youngest team in the league last year and got contributions from nearly every one of their draft picks. General manager Jerry Reese's hopes of developing a New England type program rests on those young players.
3. Can the locker room remain harmonious? Several players will be going into their contract years, most notably guard Chris Snee and running back Brandon Jacobs. If they are not satisfied, could they fester an unhappiness that permeates the room?

ON THE HOT SEAT

Eli Manning

You would think the Giants' quarterback had gotten himself off the hot seat with a Super Bowl victory.

But the often-maligned quarterback now must prove that his play during the team's run to the Super Bowl XLII crown was no aberration. He must demonstrate he is ready to become one of those few elite quarterbacks who week in and week out at the very least keep their teams in every game.

And Eli Manning knows that's the case. That's why he worked as hard as ever during his off-season, even taking a workout regimen with him to his wedding and honeymoon. And he specifically worked on one part of his game, the deep ball.

"I'd like to add another 10 yards to my deep throw," he said. "That's one part of the game I know I can get a lot better at. But I know I can get better in all facets of my game."

One carryover Manning should have from last season is an improved presence in the huddle. His teammates say they always have respected him as a leader.

But that was as young Eli, not Eli Manning, Super Bowl MVP. That has to put a little oomph into his quest to finally get himself off that proverbial hot seat.

Danny Clark will look to replace Kawika Mitchell, who left for Buffalo, on the weak side. Once a thin area, the Giants have augmented at linebacker with draft picks Bryan Kehl on the outside and Jonathan Goff in the middle. They join middleman Chase Blackburn and outside linebackers Zak DeOssie and Tank Daniels.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

The Giants may have their cornerbacks to play Steve Spagnuolo's press coverage in second-year man Aaron Ross and Corey Webster, who resuscitated his career with a strong post-season performance. They also have veterans Sam Madison, who played well in his 11th season, and versatile R.W. McQuarters, plus young Kevin Dockery, who is a solid cover man when he can stay on the field. Joining the cornerback crew is second-round draft pick Terrell Thomas. The only major off-season need, replacing free safety Gibril Wilson, was addressed first with veteran Sammy Knight, then with first-round draft pick Kenny Phillips. James Butler and Michael Johnson, like Bradshaw a surprising seventh-round draft pick, man the strong safety spot.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Former Chief Lawrence Tynes got off to a shaky start as the kicker, and almost finished even shakier. But after missing from 43 and 36 yards late in the NFC title game in frigid Green Bay, he drilled a 47-yarder in overtime to send the Giants to the Super Bowl. It took Jeff Feagles 20 seasons to make it to the Super Bowl, but he still punts like a 20-year-old — with great directional skills. The return men will come from among Bradshaw, Hixon, McQuarters and possibly Manningham. DeOssie (punts) and Alford (placekicks) saved a roster spot by sharing the snaps as rookies.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

It's not easy to repeat in the NFL, when each season teams can come out of nowhere — like the Giants did in 2007. There was a special aura, a special feeling around that team which enabled it to upset Dallas, a team that had beaten it twice in the regular season; Green Bay in the coldest conditions that strongly favored Brett Favre over Manning; and New England, searching for that 19-0 spot in the record books. Unfortunately for the Giants they could not bottle that feeling and open it up again for this season. The season-after always is a very difficult one, particularly after the kind of unbelievable and incredible rush the Giants got in their run to the Super Bowl XLII crown.

RATING: Minus 2

—Vinny DiTrani

2007 RESULTS

Record: 14-6

Sep. 9	at Dallas	35-45
Sep. 16	GREEN BAY	13-35
Sep. 23	at Washington	24-17
Sep. 30	PHILADELPHIA	16- 3
Oct. 7	N.Y. JETS	35-24
Oct. 15	at Atlanta (Mon.)	31-10
Oct. 21	SAN FRANCISCO	33-15
Oct. 28	at Miami (London)	13-10
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	DALLAS	20-31
Nov. 18	at Detroit	16-10
Nov. 25	MINNESOTA	17-41
Dec. 2	at Chicago	21-16
Dec. 9	at Philadelphia	16-13
Dec. 16	WASHINGTON	10-22
Dec. 23	at Buffalo	38-21
Dec. 29	NEW ENGLAND (Sat.)	35-38
Jan. 6	at Tampa Bay	24-14
Jan. 13	at Dallas	21-17
Jan. 20	at Green Bay (OT)	23-20
Feb. 3	New England	17-14

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	at Detroit (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 18	CLEVELAND (Mon.)	8:00
Aug. 23	at N.Y. Jets (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 28	NEW ENGLAND (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 4	WASHINGTON (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 14	at St. Louis	12:00
Sep. 21	CINCINNATI	1:00
Sep. 28	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 5	SEATTLE	1:00
Oct. 13	at Cleveland (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 19	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct. 26	at Pittsburgh	4:15
Nov. 2	DALLAS	4:15
Nov. 9	at Philadelphia	8:15
Nov. 16	BALTIMORE	1:00
Nov. 23	at Arizona	2:15
Nov. 30	at Washington	1:00
Dec. 7	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Dec. 14	at Dallas	7:15
Dec. 21	CAROLINA	1:00
Dec. 28	at Minnesota	12:00

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

2007 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Lincoln Financial Field, 65,352, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: T2nd

NFC EAST | www.philadelphiaeagles.com

AT A GLANCE

NovaCare Complex
One NovaCare Way
Philadelphia, PA 19145
(215) 463-2500

TRAINING CAMP:
Lehigh University; Bethlehem, PA

COACH:
Andy Reid, 10th year with Eagles and as NFL head coach (96-62).

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Andy Reid

GENERAL MANAGER:
Tom Heckert

VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Jason Licht

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Ryan Grigson

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Scott Cohen

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Marty Mornhinweg	*Offensive coordinator	14	6
Pat Shurmur	Quarterbacks	10	10
Juan Castillo	Offensive line	14	14
Ted Williams	Running backs	14	14
David Culley	Receivers	15	10
Tom Melvin	Tight ends	10	10
Mark Whipple	Offensive assistant	4	1
James Urban	Off. Quality control	2	2
Jim Johnson	Defensive coordinator	23	10
Pete Jenkins	Defensive line	3	3
Bill Shuey	Linebackers	6	6
Sean McDermott	Secondary	11	11
Otis Smith	Asst. secondary	1	1
Mike Caldwell	Def. quality control	1	1
Rory Segrest	Special teams coor.	3	3
Jeff Nixon	Spec. teams quality control	2	2
Mike Wolf	Strength & Cond.	17	14
Jay Merlino	Strength & Cond.	1	1
Barry Rubin	Strength & Cond.	12	1

*Assistant head coach

How Much Longer Will This be McNabb's Team?

The Eagles often have been criticized for worrying more about the future than the present. But as far as Eagles coach Andy Reid is concerned, the future is now.

Despite the fact that the Eagles have missed the playoffs two of the last three seasons, Reid feels his 2008 team is capable of doing something none of his previous nine Eagles teams were able to do: win a Super Bowl.

"The gun is fully loaded," Reid said. "We're ready to compete for a championship."

The Eagles swung and missed at wide receiver Randy Moss, who re-signed with New England after dipping his toes into the free agency waters for a couple of days. But with their five-time Pro Bowl quarterback Donovan McNabb completely recovered from his 2006 knee injury, Reid feels the offense will have no trouble scoring points.

And with the off-season acquisitions of cornerback Asante Samuel and pass-rushing defensive end Chris Clemons, he is hopeful his defense will be a lot more opportunistic than it was last year, when the Eagles forced a league-low 19 turnovers.

COACHING

Andy Reid is entering his 10th season at the helm of the Eagles, which is a long time to be in the same place. But he appears to have regained some of that new-coach passion after watching his team sit out the playoffs for the second time in three seasons. Coordinator Jim Johnson still is one of the best defensive coaches in the game and has the athletic weapons this season to do some creative things.

RATING: 9

QUARTERBACKS

Donovan McNabb has pretty much recovered from his '06 knee injury. He struggled early last season, but once he regained his mobility he was a different quarterback, completing 64 percent of his passes and throwing just one interception in three straight season-ending victories. He'll never be the most accurate quarterback in the league, but he makes smart decisions and has the second lowest interception percentage in NFL history. Kevin Kolb, who was drafted as the heir apparent to McNabb, spent most of his rookie season as the team's No. 3 quarterback, behind McNabb and backup A.J. Feeley. He'll get an opportunity this summer to wrestle the No. 2 job from Feeley, but the starting job will be McNabb's as long as he stays healthy.

RATING: 8

RUNNING BACKS

Brian Westbrook is one of the league's most versatile running backs. He racked up a league-best 2,104 yards from scrimmage last season, averaging 4.8 yards per carry and catching 90 passes. Reid likes to move him all around the formation and try

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Asante Samuel

The Eagles' top off-season priority was finding people who could help them improve on last season's league-worst 19 takeaways. Enter Samuel, a playmaking corner who had 16 interceptions the last two years.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Rocky Boiman, RB Lorenzo Booker, DE Chris Clemons, FB Dan Klecko, TE Kris Wilson

KEY LOSS:
LB Takeo Spikes (14/14)*
Spikes was released in March after refusing to take a pay cut. He wasn't the player he once was and would've had his on-field role reduced. But with a starting linebacking corps that totals five years of NFL experience, they will miss his leadership.

OTHER LOSSES:
CB Will James (14/6), DE Jevon Kearse (14/8), RB Reno Mahe (15/0), DT Ian Scott (0/0), FB Thomas Tapeh (16/8), DT Kimo von Oelhoffen (8/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 10 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

to capitalize on coverage mismatches against safeties and linebackers. Westbrook has put to rest questions about his durability, with nearly 700 touches over the last two seasons. But they may be pushing the envelope if they give him 320-plus touches again this season. He had 368 in 2007.

The Eagles acquired Lorenzo Booker in a draft-day trade with the Miami Dolphins. Booker is a similar type of back to Westbrook, who can be flexed out wide and utilized as a receiver. The Eagles also got Westbrook some backfield blocking help in the off-season, signing 270-pound former defensive tackle Dan Klecko, who will get a shot to win the starting fullback job.

RATING: 8.5

RECEIVERS

Neither of the Eagles' top two wideouts — Kevin Curtis and Reggie Brown — are very big, which occasionally presents problems for them getting off jams at the line of scrimmage. Curtis, signed as a free agent last year, had a solid season, catching 77 balls for 1,110 yards and six touchdowns. Brown struggled early in the season, but finished strong, catching 22 passes in the Eagles' final four games. Slowed much of the season by a groin injury, slot receiver Jason Avant caught just 23 passes. He doesn't have great speed, but is sure-handed and not afraid to go over the middle.

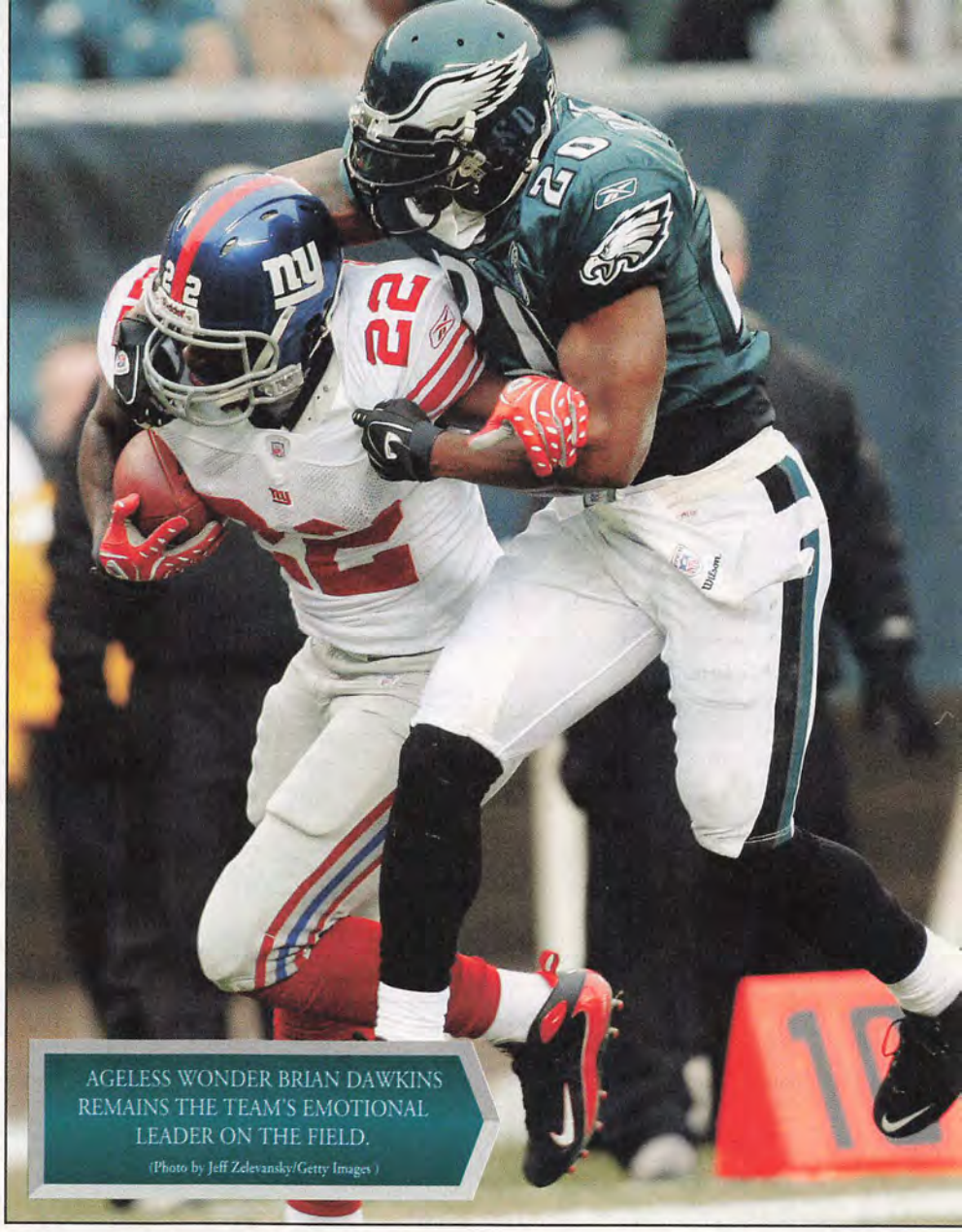
Rookie DeSean Jackson has sub-4.4 speed, but probably will have a greater impact this year as a return man than as a receiver. The offense will get a big boost from the healthy return of tight end L.J. Smith. Smith caught 111 passes in '05-06, but was hurt most of last season, missing six games and being largely ineffective in the others. It's the main reason the Eagles plummeted from 10th to 24th in red-zone offense.

RATING: 7.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Tra Thomas and Jon Runyan are one of the top offensive tackle tandems in the league. Runyan will be 35 in November and Thomas 34, but both played very well last season, and there's no reason to believe they both don't have at least one more productive year in them. Right guard Shawn Andrews is a 330-pound road-grader, who earned his second straight Pro Bowl invitation. But he wasn't nearly as consistent as he was in '06. Same with center Jamaal Jackson and left guard Todd Herremans. Herremans will have to win a training battle against third-year man Max Jean-Gilles to hang on to his starting job. The Eagles drafted Winston Justice two years ago to eventually replace Thomas or Runyan. But he has yet to prove he's up to the task.

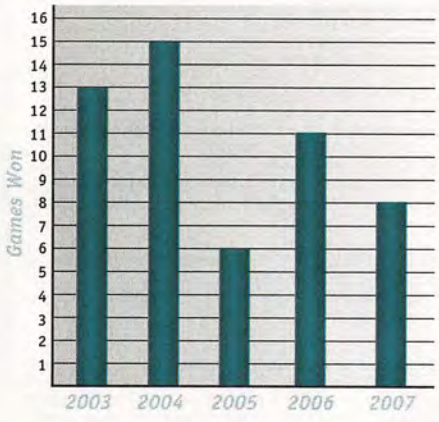
RATING: 7.5



AGELESS WONDER BRIAN DAWKINS REMAINS THE TEAM'S EMOTIONAL LEADER ON THE FIELD.

(Photo by Jeff Zelevansky/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2006*

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Right end Trent Cole has developed into one of the league's better pass rushers, collecting 12.5 sacks last season. But he didn't get enough help on the other side, which is why the Eagles signed free agent Chris Clemons in the off-season. Clemons recorded eight sacks in a part-time role with Oakland last season. He's not big enough to be an every-down end, but defensive coordinator Jim Johnson will have him on the field in passing situations. Second-year man Victor Abiamiri and veteran Juqua Thomas also will rotate on the outside. Former first-round picks Brodrick Bunkley and Mike Patterson give the Eagles a dependable tandem inside. They also used their first pick in the draft (a second rounder) on a tackle Trevor Laws — who should see immediate action as part of Johnson's four-man tackle rotation.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

The unit's three likely season-opening starters — Chris Gocong (SAM, strong side), Omar Gaither (WILL, weak side) and Stewart Bradley (MIKE, middle) — don't have a lot of NFL experience (five years between them). But they may be the most athletic group Jim Johnson has had since he arrived in Philadelphia with Andy Reid in '99.

Eagles Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
81	Avant, Jason	6-0	212	3	Michigan	15/5	D4 06	D4 PHA 06	Sure-handed No. 3 receiver who was slowed by a groin injury in '07.
84	Baskett, Hank	6-4	220	3	New Mexico	16/0	T,MINN 06	CFA MINN 06	Might be the Eagles' best blocking wideout, but caught just 16 passes last year.
86	**Brown, Reggie**	**6-1**	**197**	**4**	**Georgia**	**16/14**	**D2 05**	**D2 PHA 05**	**Started slow, finished strong, catching 22 passes in final four games.**
87	Celek, Brent (TE)	6-4	255	2	Cincinnati	16/4	D5 07	D5 PHA 07	Promising second-year player who will be the Eagles' No. 2 tight end.
80	**Curtis, Kevin**	**6-0**	**186**	**6**	**Utah State**	**16/16**	**UFA,STL 07**	**D3 STL 03**	**Caught 77 passes for 1,110 yards in first real opportunity as a starter.**
19	Gasperson, Michael	6-4	220	1	San Diego	1/0	FA 08	CFA PHA 05	Big wideout who also can double as a tight end.
10	Jackson, DeSean (KR)	5-10	169	R	California	0/0	D2 08	D2 PHA 08	As a rookie, will contribute more as a returner than a pass-catcher.
85	Jones, Jamal	5-11	205	2	North Carolina A&T	0/0	FA 08	CFA STL 04	A free agent facing an uphill training camp battle to make the team.
83	Lewis, Greg	6-0	180	6	Illinois	15/1	CFA 03	CFA PHA 03	Had three touchdown catches, but contributes primarily as special-teams gunner.
89	Schobel, Matt (TE)	6-5	247	7	Texas Christian	15/6	UFA,CIN 06	D3 CIN 02	Celek's development and Wilson's arrival might make him expendable.
82	**Smith, L.J. (TE)**	**6-3**	**258**	**6**	**Rutgers**	**10/9**	**D2 03**	**D2 PHA 03**	**Red-zone offense suffered mightily last season with him hurt.**
88	Wilson, Kris (TE)	6-2	251	5	Pittsburgh	16/12	UFA,KC 08	D2 KC 04	Versatile player who can play fullback and tight end and make a special teams contribution.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
73	**Andrews, Shawn (G/T)**	**6-4**	**335**	**5**	**Arkansas**	**15/15**	**D1 04**	**D1 PHA 04**	**Coming off inconsistent season, but still earned second straight Pro Bowl nod.**
59	Cole, Nick (C)	6-0	350	3	New Mexico State	16/1	CFA 06	CFA PHA 06	Eagles occasionally used him as a fullback in goal line situations.
65	Dunlap, King (T)	6-8	310	R	Auburn	0/0	D7 08	D7 PHA 08	Impressive size, but fell to seventh round after poor senior season.
63	Gibson, Mike (G)	6-3	305	R	California	0/0	D6 08	D6 PHA 08	His biggest problem in college was staying on his feet.
79	**Herremans, Todd (G)**	**6-6**	**321**	**4**	**Saginaw Valley State**	**16/15**	**D4 05**	**D4 PHA 05**	**Will have to hold off Jean-Gilles to hang on to starting left guard job.**
67	**Jackson, Jamaal (C)**	**6-4**	**330**	**5**	**Delaware State**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**CFA PHA 03**	**Athletic center who was on a Pro Bowl track, before an up-and-down '07 season.**
62	Jean-Gilles, Max (G)	6-3	358	3	Georgia	4/1	D4 06	D4 PHA 06	A big pile-driver who will compete with Herremans for starting left guard job.
74	Justice, Winston (T)	6-6	320	3	Southern Cal	7/1	D2 06	D2 PHA 06	Jury still is very much out on whether he can be an NFL starter.
68	McGlynn, Mike (G)	6-4	311	R	Pittsburgh	0/0	D4 08	D4 PHA 08	Eagles like this rookie's nasty streak. A tackle at Pitt, he'll move inside.
64	*Rodgers, Stefan (T)	6-5	310	3	Lambuth	0/0	FA 06	CFA TENN 05	Has spent both of his first two NFL seasons on injured reserve.
69	**Runyan, Jon (T)**	**6-7**	**330**	**13**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**UFA,TENN 00**	**D4 TENN 96**	**Will turn 35 in November, but still is playing at an extremely high level.**
72	**Thomas, Tra (T)**	**6-7**	**335**	**11**	**Florida State**	**15/15**	**D1 98**	**D1 PHA 98**	**Still holding his own at left tackle at 33, but has a chronic back problem.**
71	Young, Scott (G)	6-4	312	4	Brigham Young	1/0	FA 05	D5 PHA 05	Was inactive for 14 games in '07; time is running out for him.
RUNNING BACKS									
25	Booker, Lorenzo	5-10	191	2	Florida State	7/1	T,MIA 08	D3 MIA 07	Acquired in a draft-day trade; he gives Eagles another pass-catching back.
28	Buckhalter, Correll	6-0	217	8	Nebraska	14/2	D6 01	D6 PHA 01	Averaged 4.7 yards per carry last year, but got just 50 carries.
34	Davis, Jason (FB)	5-10	245	2	Illinois	0/0	FA 08	CFA PHA 06	Versatile fullback who will compete with Klecko for starting job.
29	Hunt, Tony	6-1	227	2	Penn State	8/0	D3 07	D3 PHA 07	Saw little action as a rookie, getting 10 carries and playing in just eight games.
49	**Klecko, Dan (FB)**	**5-11**	**275**	**6**	**Temple**	**8/0**	**UFA,IND 08**	**D4 NE 03**	**Eagles signed the former DT/LB to play fullback.**
23	*Moats, Ryan	5-8	210	4	Louisiana Tech	0/0	D3 05	D3 PHA 05	Spent '07 on IR; has talent, but puts the ball on the ground too much.
36	**Westbrook, Brian**	**5-10**	**203**	**7**	**Villanova**	**15/15**	**D3 02**	**D3 PHA 02**	**Has established himself as one of the league's very best running backs.**
QUARTERBACKS									
14	Feeley, A.J.	6-3	220	8	Oregon	3/2	FA 06	D5 PHA 01	Will have to beat out Kolb to hang on to backup job behind McNabb.
4	Kolb, Kevin	6-3	218	2	Houston	1/0	D2 07	D2 PHA 07	The No. 3 as a rookie; he'll be given chance to win the No. 2 job this year.
5	**McNabb, Donovan**	**6-2**	**240**	**10**	**Syracuse**	**14/14**	**D1 99**	**D1 PHA 99**	**Finished strong after regaining his mobility from '06 knee injury.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
78	**Abiamiri, Victor (E)**	**6-4**	**267**	**2**	**Notre Dame**	**6/1**	**D2 07**	**D2 PHA 07**	**Will be part of the Eagles' four-man end rotation.**
97	**Bunkley, Brodrick (T)**	**6-2**	**306**	**3**	**Florida State**	**15/15**	**D1 06**	**D1 PHA 06**	**Former first-rounder started 15 games last year at right tackle.**
91	Clemons, Chris (E)	6-2	240	5	Georgia	16/2	UFA,OAK 08	CFA WSH 03	A former linebacker who will be used as a pass-rushing end.
58	**Cole, Trent (E/OLB)**	**6-3**	**270**	**4**	**Cincinnati**	**16/16**	**D5 05**	**D5 PHA 05**	**An undersized high-motor player who notched 12.5 sacks last year at right end.**
90	Howard, Darren (T)	6-3	275	9	Kansas State	16/0	UFA,NO 06	D2 NO 00	If he makes team, it will be as a pass-rushing tackle.
93	Laws, Trevor (T)	6-1	304	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D2 08	D2 PHA 08	Has a chance to see considerable playing time in four-man rotation as rookie.
95	*McDougle, Jerome (E)	6-2	264	5	Miami	0/0	D1 03	D1 PHA 03	A first-round disappointment who's got just three sacks in four years.
75	Parker, Juqua (E)	6-2	250	8	Oklahoma State	16/7	FA 05	CFA TENN 01	An undersized end who was second on the team with five sacks in '07.
98	**Patterson, Mike (T)**	**6-0**	**292**	**4**	**Southern Cal**	**16/15**	**D1 05**	**D1 PHA 05**	**A high-energy player who finished third on the team in tackles and had four sacks.**
77	Ramsey, LaJuan (T)	6-3	300	3	Southern Cal	9/0	D6 06	D6 PHA 06	Could be the odd-man-out of Eagles' four-man tackle rotation.
94	Reagor, Montae (T)	6-3	285	10	Texas Tech	7/0	FA 07	D2 DEN 99	An undersized tackle whose strength is rushing the passer.
61	Schable, A.J. (E)	6-3	273	2	South Dakota	0/0	FA 08	CFA ARIZ 06	A practice-squad candidate who will be hard-pressed to make the team.
63	Smith, Bryan (E)	6-2	231	R	McNeese State	0/0	D3 08	D3 PHA 08	Only weighs about 230, but Eagles really like his pass-rushing potential.
LINEBACKERS									
50	Boiman, Rocky (O/M)	6-4	236	7	Notre Dame	16/7	UFA,IND 08	D4 TENN 02	A solid backup at SAM and MIKE who also will be a special teams stud.
55	**Bradley, Stewart (M)**	**6-3**	**255**	**2**	**Nebraska**	**16/1**	**D3 07**	**D3 PHA 07**	**Eagles love the physicality the former Cornhusker brings to the MIKE spot.**
96	**Gaither, Omar (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**3**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D5 06**	**D5 PHA 06**	**Versatile player who will move back to WILL after spending '07 at MIKE.**
57	**Gocong, Chris (O)**	**6-2**	**263**	**3**	**Cal Poly-SLO**	**16/12**	**D3 06**	**D3 PHA 06**	**The former college defensive end gives Eagles size and athleticism at the SAM spot.**
56	Jordan, Akeem (O)	6-1	230	2	James Madison	9/1	FA 07	CFA PHA 07	The '07 undrafted free agent will be used in the Eagles' two-linebacker nickel package.
51	Mays, Joe	5-11	246	R	North Dakota State	0/0	D6 08	D6 PHA 08	A small-school player who will push for a backup job.
53	Studebaker, Andy (O)	6-3	251	R	Wheaton	0/0	D6 08	D6 PHA 08	A Division III defensive end who the Eagles will try to convert into a SAM linebacker.
52	Togafau, Pago (M	5-10	240	2	Idaho State	7/0	W,ARIZ 07	CFA ARIZ 07	Will compete for the backup MIKE job behind Bradley.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
24	**Brown, Sheldon (CB)**	**5-10**	**200**	**7**	**South Carolina**	**16/16**	**D2 02**	**D2 PHA 02**	**A physical corner who is better in the slot than on the outside.**
37	*Considine, Sean (S)	6-0	212	4	Iowa	8/8	D4 05	D4 PHA 05	Has lost his starting strong safety job after yet another major shoulder injury.
41	Davis, Tanard (S)	5-9	184	1	Miami	0/0	FA 07	CFA IND 06	An undersized corner with pretty good speed.
20	**Dawkins, Brian (S)**	**6-0**	**210**	**13**	**Clemson**	**10/10**	**D2 96**	**D2 PHA 96**	**Hopes to rebound from injury-plagued '07 season.**
33	Demps, Quintin (S)	5-11	206	R	Texas-El Paso	0/0	D4 08	D4 PHA 08	Had 17 interceptions at UTEP, and can return punts.
35	Graham, Nick (CB)	5-10	191	2	Tulsa	15/0	CFA 07	CFA PHA 07	Played in 15 games in '07, mostly on special teams.
21	Hanson, Joselio (CB)	5-9	185	4	Texas Tech	16/4	FA 06	CFA SF 03	The NFL Europe alum has developed into a dependable cover man.
39	Ikegwuonu, Jack (CB)	5-10	194	R	Wisconsin	0/0	D4 08	D4 PHA 08	Rookie will sit out '07 as he recovers from major knee injury.
27	**Mikell, Quintin (S)**	**5-10**	**206**	**6**	**Boise State**	**14/11**	**CFA 03**	**CFA PHA 03**	**An excellent special teams player; he's played his way into starting strong safety job.**
32	Paschal, Marcus (S)	6-0	201	2	Iowa	3/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 07	Spent half of '07 on practice squad before being promoted.
30	Reed, J.R. (S/KR)	5-11	202	4	USF	15/3	FA 07	D4 PHA 04	A solid backup safety who also can return kicks.
22	**Samuel, Asante (CB)**	**5-10**	**185**	**6**	**UCF**	**16/14**	**UFA,NE 08**	**D4 NE 03**	**The Eagles' top offseason acquisition, he's got 16 interceptions the last two years.**
26	Sheppard, Lito (CB)	5-10	194	7	Florida	11/11	D1 02	D1 PHA 02	If he's not traded, the two-time Pro Bowler will rotate at cornerback.
SPECIALISTS									
2	Akers, David (K)	5-10	200	9	Louisville	16/0	FA 99	CFA CAR 97	Is coming off sub-par season in which he hit just two of 10 field-goal attempts from 40-plus yards.
46	Dorenbos, Jon (LS)	6-0	250	6	Texas-El Paso	16/0	FA 06	CFA BUFF 03	Dependable long snapper, but can't do anything else.
6	Rocca, Sav (P)	6-5	265	2	None	16/0	FA 07	FA PHA 07	Former Aussie Rules footballer has big-time leg; just needs more consistency.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Brandon Childress (1, Ohio State), Terrell Golden (Penn State), Frantz Hardy (Nebraska), Shaheer McBride (Delaware State), Bill Sampy (Louisiana-Lafayette); OT Franklin Dunbar (Middle Tennessee State); FB Jed Collins (Washington State); DE Xzavie Jackson (1, Missouri); DT Jeremy Clark (1, Alabama); LB Justin Roland (Kansas State); CBs Kyle Arrington (Hofstra), Therrian Fontenot (1, Fresno State); P Richmond McGee (Texas).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Some 3-4 looks on defense. Jim Johnson primarily uses a 4-3 scheme, but he's got some versatility in his front seven now that will allow him to give opposing offenses different looks. He can use strong-side linebacker Chris Gocong as a rusher and he can have athletic ends like Chris Clemons and Juqua Thomas lining up as linebackers.
2. Flexing out Brian Westbrook more. Andy Reid moves Westbrook all over the formation, and flexes him out wide or lines him up in the slot 12 to 15 times a game. But with the addition of running back Lorenzo Booker, Reid may line Westbrook out wide even more than in the past.
3. More scrambles by McNabb. One of the things that hurt McNabb early on last season was his lack of mobility. Teams didn't have to worry about the problems he poses as a runner. But that changed late in the season. In December wins over NFC East champion Dallas and the New Orleans Saints, he rushed for 90 yards on 15 carries.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Donovan McNabb

When the Eagles took quarterback Kevin Kolb with their first pick (in the second round) in the 2007 draft, many thought Donovan McNabb's days in Philadelphia were over. But despite non-stop rumors that the five-time Pro Bowler would be traded in the off-season, McNabb remains the Eagles' starting quarterback.

For how much longer will depend on how he — and the Eagles — do this season. If he can stay healthy and lead the Eagles back to playoff prominence, he probably can write his own ticket on when he wants to say au revoir to the City of Brotherly Love. If he can't, if he struggles and the Eagles are shut out of the postseason for the third time in the last four years, he'll probably be traded in '09 and Kolb will get his shot.

McNabb, who tore his ACL in '06, struggled early on last season until he finally got much of his mobility back. An ankle sprain then sidelined him in November for two games. But he finished strong, completing 64 percent of his passes and throwing just one interception in the Eagles' final three games, all victories.

Gocong, a 260-pound former college defensive end, proved last year that he could make the transition to linebacker. In the second half of the year, Johnson started utilizing him more as a blitzer and pass rusher. The 6-3, 254-pound Bradley brings Jeremiah Trotter-like physicality to the MIKE spot. Bradley so impressed Johnson with his play late last season that the Eagles released veteran Takeo Spikes and moved the versatile Gaither from the middle to the weak side. Johnson also is high on another young player, Akim Jordan, who is expected to be used in their nickel package.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

The Eagles had a league-low 19 takeaways and 11 interceptions last season, prompting the off-season signing of playmaking Pro Bowl cornerback Asante Samuel. Samuel had 16 interceptions the last two seasons with New England. The addition of Samuel was expected to mean the subtraction of another Pro Bowl corner, oft-injured Lito Sheppard. The Eagles spent much of the off-season trying to trade him, but he still was on the roster as April turned to May. If Sheppard remains an Eagle, the Eagles' other starting corner, Sheldon Brown, probably would move into the slot, where he is most effective. NFL Europe alum Joselio Hanson has developed into a dependable nickel corner. There are concerns at safety, where Brian Dawkins is 34 and Quintin Mikell is considered a better backup and special teams ace than starting strong safety.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Many of the Eagles' off-season moves were aimed at upgrading their special teams. After finishing 24th in the league in both punt and kickoff returns last season, the Eagles needed a Devin Hester-like home-run threat, and they may have found one in second-round pick DeSean Jackson. If he can be productive out of the gate, it will shorten the field for the Eagles' offense. They also signed several second-tier free agents with special teams experience such as Rocky Boiman, Dan Klecko, Kris Wilson and Chris Clemons. Kicker David Akers has long been one of the league's best. But the 33-year-old is coming off a disappointing season in which he converted just two of 10 field-goal attempts beyond 40 yards. Aussie punter Sav Rocca has a big leg, but needs to improve his consistency.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Donovan McNabb made a public plea for the Eagles to get another offensive playmaker, which didn't play too well with his current receivers. If he continues to dwell on it, it could develop into a locker-room problem if the Eagles don't get off to a good start.

RATING: Minus 1

—Paul Domowitch

2007 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 9	at Green Bay	13-16
Sep. 17	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	12-20
Sep. 23	DETROIT	56-21
Sep. 30	at N.Y. Giants	3-16
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at N.Y. Jets	16- 9
Oct. 21	CHICAGO	16-19
Oct. 28	at Minnesota	23-16
Nov. 4	DALLAS	17-38
Nov. 11	at Washington	33-25
Nov. 18	MIAMI	17- 7
Nov. 25	at New England	28-31
Dec. 2	SEATTLE	24-28
Dec. 9	N.Y. GIANTS	13-16
Dec. 16	at Dallas	10- 6
Dec. 23	at New Orleans	38-23
Dec. 30	BUFFALO	17- 9

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 8	at Pittsburgh (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 14	CAROLINA (Thu.)	8:00
Aug. 22	at New England (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 28	N.Y. JETS (Thu.)	6:30
Sep. 7	ST.LOUIS	1:00
Sep. 15	at Dallas (Mon.)	7:30
Sep. 21	PITTSBURGH	4:15
Sep. 28	at Chicago	7:15
Oct. 5	WASHINGTON	1:00
Oct. 12	at San Francisco	1:15
Oct. 19	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 26	ATLANTA	1:00
Nov. 2	at Seattle	1:15
Nov. 9	N.Y. GIANTS	8:15
Nov. 16	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 23	at Baltimore	1:00
Nov. 27	ARIZONA (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 7	at N.Y.Giants	1:00
Dec. 15	CLEVELAND (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 21	at Washington	1:00
Dec. 28	DALLAS	1:00

AT A GLANCE

21300 Redskin Park Drive
Ashburn, VA 20147
(703) 726-7000

TRAINING CAMP:
Redskin Park; Ashburn, VA

COACH:
Jim Zorn, 1st year with Redskins and as NFL head coach

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Vinny Cerrato

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Scott Campbell

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Louis Riddick

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Joe Bugel	Asst. head coach/off.	31	14
Sherman Smith	Offensive coordinator	14	1
Stan Hixon	Receivers	5	5
Stump Mitchell	*Running backs	10	1
Rennie Simmons	Tight ends	27	18
Chris Meidt	Offensive assistant	1	1
Bill Khayat	Off. quality control	5	2
Greg Blache	Defensive coordinator/DL	21	5
John Palermo	Defensive line	1	1
Kirk Olivadotti	Linebackers	9	9
Jerry Gray	Secondary/cornerbacks	12	3
Steve Jackson	Passing game/safeties	17	5
Arthur Smith	Def. quality control	2	2
Danny Smith	Special teams	14	5
John Hastings	Strength & Cond.	14	7
Bobby Crumpler	Strength & Cond.	6	6
Harrison Bernstein	Strength & Cond.	2	2

*Assistant head coach

Redskins' Hopes and the Offense in Zorn's Hands

Joe Gibbs shocked Redskins owner Dan Snyder by retiring in January after a second playoff season in three years. But Snyder trumped that decision on the Washington sports Richter scale by replacing his Hall of Fame coach, not with his usual superstar — Marty Schottenheimer, Steve Spurrier, Gibbs — but with Jim Zorn, a neophyte to even being in charge of an offense.

Former Seattle quarterbacks coach Zorn, whom Snyder had hired as offensive coordinator when dumping Al Saunders on Jan. 26, was as surprised as anyone when the owner asked him to interview for the head coaching vacancy and when he got the job on Feb. 9.

Zorn, who started from the bottom as the undrafted quarterback of the expansion Seahawks in 1976, inherited a team with all 22 starters returning (except for Sean Taylor) along with most of the staff. Snyder dismissed assistant head coach/defense Gregg Williams, who had been favored to replace Gibbs, and promoted line coach Greg Blache to run the defense.

With all those pieces in place, the usually spend-happy Snyder stunned the NFL by standing pat during free agency, signing only former Houston Pro Bowl kickoff return man Jerome Mathis and not making a run at such big names as Randy Moss and Lance Briggs.

Zorn wisely left the defense — Blache is only tweaking Williams' aggressive, many-faceted scheme — and the special teams — among the NFL's best the past four years under Danny Smith — alone. Zorn is also keeping the running game relatively intact as new offensive coordinator Sherman Smith, formerly Tennessee's running backs coach, merges his approach with that of Joe Bugel.

So the big difference will be in the offense, as Washington becomes Seattle East with Zorn's installation of Mike Holmgren's West Coast offense. That means shorter dropbacks for quarterback Jason Campbell and quicker-hitting routes for receivers Santana Moss, Antwaan Randle El and Pro Bowl tight end Chris Cooley as well as big rookie receivers Devin Thomas and Malcolm Kelly and pass-catching rookie tight end Fred Davis.

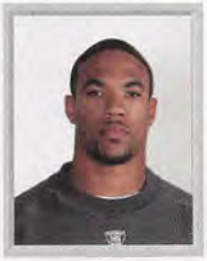
But the big question is whether the Redskins, half of whose starters will be in their 30s this year, are the team that crushed the Super Bowl champion Giants and NFC regular-season king Cowboys in December or the team that was just 10-18 prior to that in 2006-07. The answer is probably somewhere in between, but if Zorn is the coach Snyder thinks he is and Campbell is the quarterback Gibbs thought he could be, the Redskins can contend in 2008. If they're not, Washington could finish in the NFC East basement.

COACHING

The departures of Williams and Saunders leave

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Devin Thomas



Forecast by many to go midway through the first round, the Michigan State star fell to the Redskins at No. 34. The 6-2, 218-pound Thomas could be the big receiver the Redskins have lacked for years.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
WR Jerome Mathis

KEY LOSS:
S Sean Taylor (9/9)*
The Redskins played well in the wake of Taylor's shooting death last Nov. 26. Overachieving replacement Reed Doughty won't scare opposing receivers or quarterbacks like the athletic and intimidating Taylor.

OTHER LOSSES:
QB Mark Brunell (0/0), WR Reche Caldwell (8/1), OG Rick DeMulling (5/0), LB Randall Godfrey (11/4), TE Brian Kozlowski (3/0), WR Brandon Lloyd (8/1), CB David Macklin (6/0), S Pierson Prioleau (15/4), C/G Mike Pucillo (11/1), S Omar Stoutmire (3/0), C Ross Tucker (0/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
21; 11 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

only offensive line coach Joe Bugel as a former head coach on Zorn's staff. Blache and cornerbacks coach Jerry Gray are former coordinators. Bugel and tight ends coach Rennie Simmons all won multiple Super Bowl rings during Gibbs' first Redskins tenure. Danny Smith worked with Zorn in Detroit in 1999 and 2000 while new running backs coach Stump Mitchell worked with Zorn the past seven years in Seattle. Sherman Smith played with Zorn on the Seahawks for seven seasons. Longtime college defensive line coach John Palermo took Blache's old job.

RATING: 6

QUARTERBACKS

Campbell, for whom the Redskins traded three picks for the right to draft 25th overall in 2005, has shown flashes of greatness, but has yet to develop consistency or true chemistry with any of his targets. Not outgoing by nature, Campbell is still also developing as a leader. After hardly playing for a decade, backup Todd Collins was NFC Offensive Player of the Month in December in leading Washington to a 4-0 record. The Redskins hope that Campbell stays healthy so they don't need to learn whether Collins, 36, could only thrive in Saunders' scheme. Rookie Colt Brennan can be No. 3.

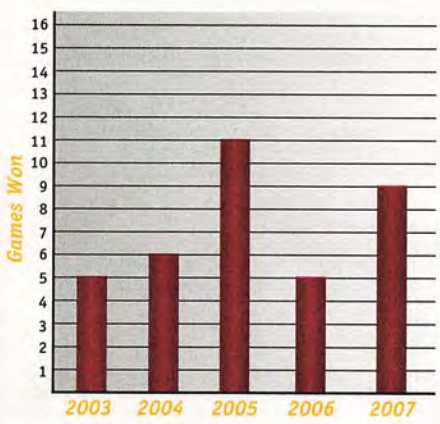
RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

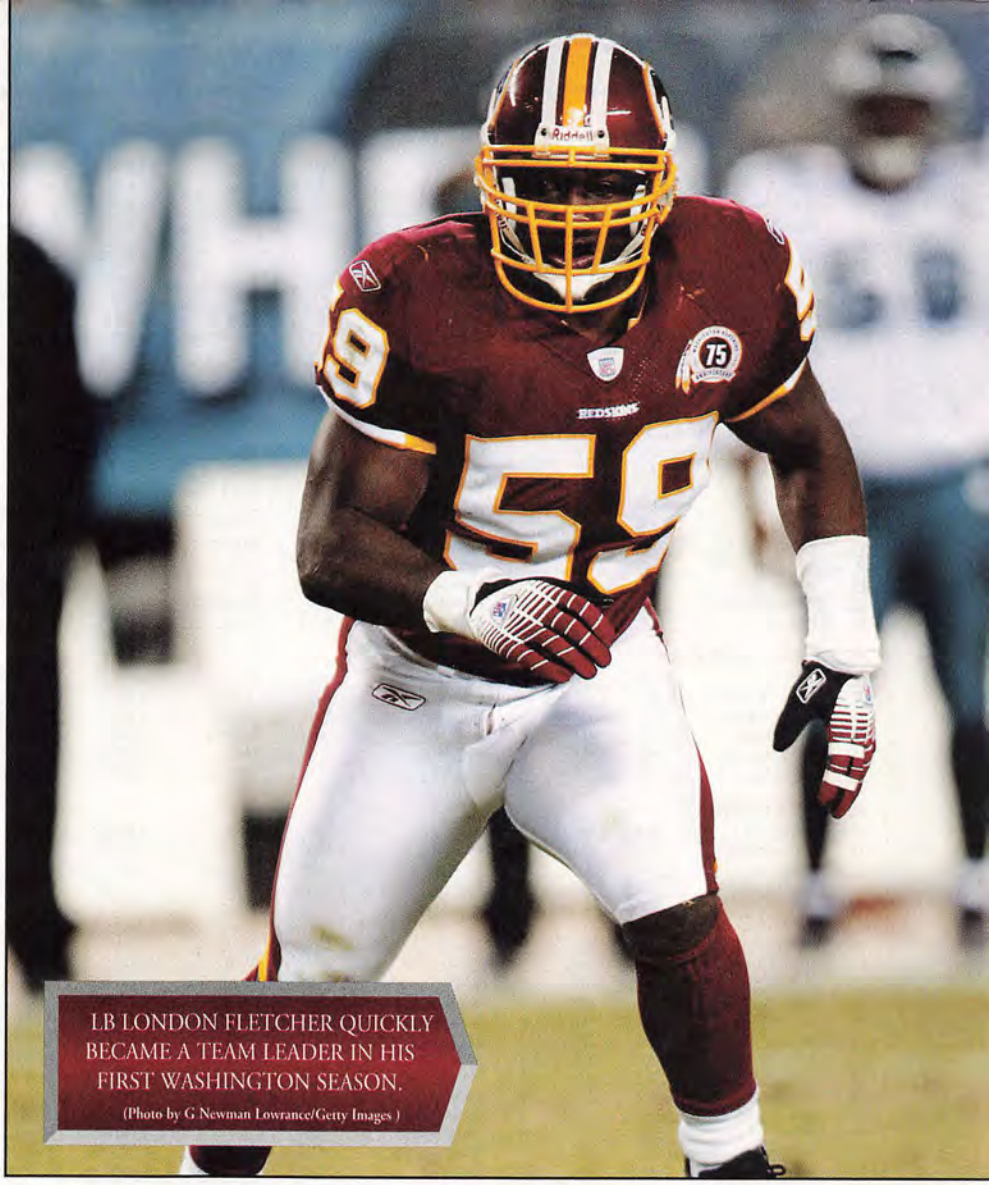
Clinton Portis bounced back nicely from an injury-shortened 2006 and from missing all of the 2007 preseason with a sprained knee to finish third in the NFC in rushing while catching a career-high 47 passes. However, Portis also averaged a career-low 3.9 yards per carry as his backbreaking workload might be catching up to the soon-to-be 27-year-old. Zorn would be smart to give backup Ladell Betts, a revelation after Portis was hurt midway though 2006 but an afterthought in 2007, more work in 2008. Fullback Mike Sellers is athletic despite his 278 pounds and can be effective in short yardage.

RATING: 8

WINS PER YEAR



**** Made Playoffs: 2005, 2007***



LB LONDON FLETCHER QUICKLY BECAME A TEAM LEADER IN HIS FIRST WASHINGTON SEASON.

(Photo by G Newman Lowrance/Getty Images)

RECEIVERS

Moss, a Pro Bowl pick during his record-setting Redskins debut in 2005, was nagged by leg injuries the two years since. Randle El set career highs in catches and yards last season, but he only scored once. Devin Thomas and fellow second-rounder Malcolm Kelly or perhaps little-used holdover Anthony Mix can be the big receivers that Zorn's offense needs. Veteran James Thrash remains in the mix. Cooley led the Redskins with 66 catches, eight for touchdowns and second-rounder Fred Davis was the nation's top tight end. Todd Yoder is a reliable blocking tight end.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Left tackle Chris Samuels missed the preseason with a sprained knee, but still made his fifth Pro Bowl in eight years. Pete Kendall filled the left guard void after being acquired from the Jets last August, but will be 35 in September and has bad knees. Center Casey Rabach remains the line's glue. Right guard Randy Thomas, coming off a torn triceps, and right tackle Jon Jansen, coming off a broken leg, hardly played in 2007. Veterans Jason Fabini and Todd Wade, third-rounder Chad Rinehart, 2007 rookie free agent Stephon Heyer and two-way lineman Lorenzo Alexander provide depth.

RATING: 7.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Right end Andre Carter's 10.5 sacks were the most by a Redskins lineman since 2000. Anthony Montgomery wrested the right tackle job from fellow 2006 draft pick Kedric Golston, but was merely functional. Left tackle Cornelius Griffin played every game for the first time in seven years, but simply isn't the force he once was. Neither is left end Phillip Daniels, who turned 35 in March. Swingman Demetric Evans is a reliable reserve. Swift end Chris Wilson, signed from the CFL, had four sacks in limited duty. Seventh-round end Rob Jackson might not make the team let alone a difference.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

Athletic strong-side starter Marcus Washington

Redskins Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
47	**Cooley, Chris (TE)**	**6-3**	**249**	**5**	**Utah State**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 WSH 04**	**Best Redskins tight end in three decades is coming off first Pro Bowl season.**
86	Davis, Fred (TE)	6-4	247	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D2 08	D2 WSH 08	Nation's top tight end in '07 will be Cooley's second banana in '08.
88	*Ecker, Tyler (TE)	6-6	248	2	Michigan	0/0	D7 07	D7 WSH 07	2007 seventh-rounder's shot at sticking dampened by Davis.
12	Kelly, Malcolm	6-4	219	R	Oklahoma	0/0	D2 08	D2 WSH 08	Second-round pick will ease his size into rotation.
80	Mann, Maurice	6-1	190	2	Nevada	0/0	FA 08	D5 CIN 04	After failing to make it with Minnesota and Miami, he's giving it one more shot at 25.
13	*Mathis, Jerome (KR)	5-11	184	4	Hampton	3/0	FA 08	D4 HOUS 05	Swift Pro Bowl kick returner as Texans rookie in '05, needs to stay healthy to have a chance.
16	McMullen, Billy	6-4	215	5	Virginia	0/0	FA 08	D3 PHA 03	Former Eagles receiver has shot to stick because he's 6-4.
19	Mix, Anthony	6-5	235	2	Auburn	9/0	FA 07	CFA NYG 06	QB Jason Campbell's former Auburn teammate could be factor with 6-5 frame.
89	**Moss, Santana**	**5-10**	**200**	**8**	**Miami**	**14/14**	**T,NYJ 05**	**D1 NYJ 01**	**Nagging injuries have helped prevent a repeat of his record-setting Washington debut in 2005.**
82	**Randle El, Antwaan**	**5-10**	**190**	**7**	**Indiana**	**15/13**	**UFA,PITT 06**	**D2 PITT 02**	**Set career-highs with 51 catches and 728 yards in '07.**
11	Thomas, Devin	6-2	218	R	Michigan State	0/0	D2 08	D2 WSH 08	Smooth second-round pick could be No. 3 receiver pretty fast.
83	Thrash, James	6-0	204	12	Missouri Southern	12/4	T,PHA 04	CFA PHA 97	A favorite of Joe Gibbs, one-time speedster will have to fight to keep job following draft of Thomas, Kelly.
87	Yoder, Todd (TE)	6-4	253	8	Vanderbilt	15/1	FA 06	CFA TB 00	Mostly a blocker, Yoder caught first Redskins TD passes by Campbell and Collins.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	Fabini, Jason (T)	6-7	309	11	Cincinnati	16/13	FA 07	D4 NYJ 98	Long-time Jets starting right tackle trying to hang on for 10th year.
68	Geisinger, Justin (C/G)	6-2	315	3	Vanderbilt	0/0	FA 08	D6 BUFF 05	Former Titans guard was on Redskins' practice squad in '07.
74	Heyer, Stephon (T)	6-6	325	2	Maryland	12/5	CFA 07	CFA WSH 07	Started five games in '07 at right tackle as surprising rookie free agent.
76	***Jansen, Jon (T)**	**6-6**	**297**	**10**	**Michigan**	**1/1**	**D2 99**	**D2 WSH 99**	**Health a big concern after two major injuries in four years.**
66	**Kendall, Pete (G)**	**6-5**	**292**	**13**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**T,NYJ 07**	**D1 SEA 96**	**Acquired from Jets in August, aging battler fit right in at left guard.**
61	**Rabach, Casey (C)**	**6-4**	**296**	**8**	**Wisconsin**	**15/15**	**UFA,BLT 05**	**D3 BLT 01**	**Wily center is glue that keeps unit together for fiery line coach Bugel.**
75	Rinehart, Chad (T/G)	6-5	311	R	Northern Iowa	0/0	D3 08	D3 WSH 08	Rookie gives Skins potential top young reserve.
60	**Samuels, Chris (T)**	**6-5**	**317**	**9**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 WSH 00**	**Smooth left tackle made fifth Pro Bowl in '07 despite missing preseason with sprained knee.**
77	***Thomas, Randy (G)**	**6-5**	**317**	**10**	**Mississippi State**	**3/3**	**UFA,NYJ 03**	**D2 NYJ 99**	**Right guard lost iron-man status when he missed almost all of '07 with torn triceps.**
71	Wade, Todd (G)	6-8	314	9	Mississippi	11/10	FA 06	D2 MIA 00	Veteran failed in summer transition to left guard and then lost right tackle job to Heyer after Jansen was hurt.
RUNNING BACKS									
46	Betts, Ladell	5-11	225	7	Iowa	16/0	D2 02	D2 WSH 02	Starred after Portis was hurt in '06, but was afterthought in '07.
36	*Broughton, Nehemiah (FB)	5-11	255	3	Citadel	0/0	FA 08	D7 WSH 05	'05 draft pick was re-signed as backup fullback despite not playing past two years.
31	Cartwright, Rock	5-8	218	7	Kansas State	15/0	D7 02	D7 WSH 02	Overachiever will have to fight off Mathis to keep kick return job despite his special teams hustle.
26	**Portis, Clinton**	**5-11**	**223**	**6**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**T,DEN 04**	**D2 DEN 02**	**Didn't have best year in '07, but still was NFC's No. 3 rusher after missing preseason with sprained knee.**
45	**Sellers, Mike (FB)**	**6-3**	**284**	**9**	**Walla Walla**	**14/12**	**FA 04**	**FA WSH 98**	**Massive fullback is surprisingly agile and is a force on special teams.**
35	Shelton, Eric	6-1	246	3	Louisville	0/0	FA 08	D2 CARO 05	Bruiser got into nine games for Panthers in 05-06.
QUARTERBACKS									
5	Brennan, Colt	6-3	201	R	Hawaii	0/0	D6 08	D6 WSH 08	Ex-Hawaii star could win No. 3 job with strong summer.
17	**Campbell, Jason**	**6-5**	**233**	**4**	**Auburn**	**13/13**	**D2 05**	**D2 WSH 05**	**Strong-armed passer was solid in first full year as starter before knee injury in December.**
15	Collins, Todd	6-4	225	13	Michigan	4/3	UFA,KC 06	D2 BUFF 95	Smart vet was NFC Offensive Player for December after hardly playing in previous decade.
3	Hollenbach, Sam	6-4	218	1	Maryland	0/0	FA 07	CFA WSH 07	Former Maryland starter could rise from practice squad to third-string this year.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
79	Alexander, Lorenzo (T)	6-1	300	2	California	13/1	FA 07	CFA CARO 05	Valuable two-way player in '07, playing in jumbo packages on 0-line and making four tackles as defensive tackle.
91	Askew, Matthias (T)	6-5	302	3	Michigan State	0/0	FA 08	D4 CIN 04	Former Bengals tackle was re-signed in March after being cut after camp.
73	Boschetti, Ryan (T)	6-4	311	5	UCLA	1/0	FA 07	CFA WSH 04	No one works harder than ex-rookie free agent, but that's not enough to get him on field.
90	Buzbee, Alex (E)	6-3	265	1	Georgetown	0/0	FA 07	CFA WSH 07	Former Georgetown end went from tryout camp in April to roster in December.
99	**Carter, Andre (E)**	**6-4**	**252**	**8**	**California**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 SF 01**	**Had five sacks in first six games en route to 10.5; most by a Redskins end in seven years.**
93	**Daniels, Phillip (E)**	**6-4**	**276**	**13**	**Georgia**	**15/15**	**FA 04**	**D4 SEA 96**	**He's 35, but there's no true challenger in sight for right end job.**
92	Evans, Demetric (E)	6-4	275	6	Georgia	16/1	FA 04	CFA DALL 01	Versatile top reserve end can also play tackle.
64	Golston, Kedric (T)	6-4	320	3	Georgia	15/0	D6 06	D6 WSH 06	Surprise rookie starter in '06 lost job in '07, but blocked two kicks.
96	**Griffin, Cornelius (T)**	**6-3**	**311**	**9**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYG 04**	**D2 NYG 00**	**Didn't miss a game in '07, but is no longer force he was in '04.**
97	Huntley, Kevin (E)	6-7	270	2	Kansas State	5/0	FA 08	CFA OAK 05	Had 2.5 sacks as rookie free agent with '05 Raiders. Played for '07 Falcons.
98	Jackson, Rob (E)	6-4	259	R	Kansas State	0/0	D7 08	D7 WSH 08	Seventh-round end is long shot to win a reserve spot.
94	**Montgomery, Anthony (T)**	**6-6**	**315**	**3**	**Minnesota**	**16/15**	**D5 06**	**D5 WSH 06**	**Worked hard to beat out Golston last summer, but needs to be more of a playmaker.**
95	Wilson, Chris (E)	6-4	246	2	Northwood	16/0	FA 07	CFA WSH 07	Ex-CFL end won job with speed and recorded four sacks in backup role.
LINEBACKERS									
54	Blades, H.B. (O)	5-10	250	2	Pittsburgh	16/0	D6 07	D6 WSH 07	Squatty Pitt product played more than expected as a rookie.
50	Campbell, Khary (O)	6-2	232	6	Bowling Green	16/0	FA 04	CFA DALL 02	Led Skins in special teams tackles past three seasons.
59	**Fletcher, London (M)**	**5-10**	**245**	**11**	**John Carroll**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 07**	**CFA STL 98**	**Leads team in tackles each year and never misses a game despite being just 5-10.**
52	***McIntosh, Rocky (O)**	**6-2**	**232**	**3**	**Miami**	**14/13**	**D2 06**	**D2 WSH 06**	**Started hot, but slowed in first year as regular before knee injury in December.**
58	Sinclair, Matt (O)	6-2	245	1	Illinois	4/0	FA 07	CFA BLT 05	NFL Europe product worked his way into special teams duty by December.
55	Wallace, Rian (M)	6-3	243	3	Temple	0/0	FA 08	D5 PITT 05	Played 16 games for Steelers in 2005-06.
53	**Washington, Marcus (O)**	**6-3**	**248**	**9**	**Auburn**	**12/11**	**UFA,IND 04**	**D2 IND 00**	**Redskins' top defender in 2004-05 was slowed by injuries past two years.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
37	**Doughty, Reed (S)**	**6-1**	**209**	**3**	**Northern Colorado**	**16/6**	**D6 06**	**D6 WSH 06**	**Made roster as special teamer in '06. Stepped in when Sean Taylor was hurt last November.**
25	Eubanks, John (CB)	5-10	173	2	Southern Mississippi	6/0	FA 08	CFA WSH 06	Has quickness to win backup cornerback role. but needs work on coverage skills.
39	Fox, Vernon (S)	5-10	203	7	Fresno State	14/0	FA 06	CFA SD 02	Finished '06 as starting strong safety, but returned to special teams duty in '07.
48	Horton, Chris (S)	6-1	216	R	UCLA	0/0	D7 08	D7 WSH 08	Seventh-rounder from UCLA could stick as a backup safety.
32	Jackson, Eddie (CB)	6-0	200	4	Arkansas	3/0	FA 08	CFA CARO 04	Has played in 42 games with Pats, Dolphins and Panthers.
30	**Landry, LaRon (S)**	**6-0**	**213**	**2**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 WSH 07**	**Sixth pick in '07 draft wowed with big hits as rookie, but needs to force more turnovers.**
41	Moore, Kareem (S)	5-11	213	R	Nicholls State	0/0	D6 08	D5 WSH 08	Well-traveled sixth-rounder is a hitter who can win backup job.
22	*Rogers, Carlos (CB)	6-0	194	4	Auburn	7/7	D1 05	D1 WSH 05	Top '05 pick will start '08 injured, following major knee surgery.
27	**Smoot, Fred (CB)**	**5-11**	**190**	**8**	**Mississippi State**	**13/11**	**FA 07**	**D2 WSH 01**	**Had just one interception in 11 starts in his return to Redskins in '07.**
24	**Springs, Shawn (CB)**	**6-0**	**204**	**12**	**Ohio State**	**16/14**	**UFA,SEA 04**	**D1 SEA 97**	**Endured injuries in '06, tragedy in '07 to still rank as No. 1 corner at 33.**
29	Torrence, Leigh (CB)	5-11	179	3	Stanford	16/1	FA 06	CFA GB 05	Speed won him backup role. Should be nickel corner until Rogers returns.
20	Tryon, Justin (CB)	5-9	190	R	Arizona State	0/0	D4 08	D4 WSH 08	Cocky rookie from Arizona State isn't fazed by competition.
SPECIALISTS									
67	Albright, Ethan (LS)	6-5	257	13	North Carolina	16/0	FA 01	CFA MIA 94	Flawless long snapper played in first Pro Bowl at 36.
14	Brooks, Durant (P)	6-2	204	R	Georgia Tech	0/0	D6 08	D6 WSH 08	Big-legged rookie poses serious threat to incumbent Frost.
4	Frost, Derrick (P)	6-2	201	4	Northern Iowa	16/0	FA 05	CFA PHA 03	Followed career-year with hot start before tailing off big-time in second half.
6	Suisham, Shaun (K)	6-0	197	2	Bowling Green	16/0	FA 06	CFA PITT 05	Gave Skins their most accurate field-goal kicking (29 of 35) in years in first full season.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Horace Gant (St. Olaf), Burl Toler (1, California); TE Jason Goode (Maryland); TE/FB Pete Schmitt (1, Wisconsin-Whitewater); OT Tavares Washington (1, Florida); OGs Kerry Brown (Appalachian State), Devin Clark (New Mexico), Andrew Crummey (Maryland); C Kyle DeVan (Oregon State); QB Derek Devine (Marshall); RB Marcus Mason (1, Youngstown State); DEs Tommy Davis (1, North Carolina), Dorian Smith (Oregon State); DT J.T. Mapu (Tennessee); LBs Curtis Gatewood (Vanderbilt), Danny Verdun Wheeler (1, Georgia), Bryan Wilson (Morgan State); CBs Cedrick Holt (1, North Carolina), Matteral Richardson (Arkansas), Byron Westbrook (1, Salisbury); DB Patrick Ghee (Wake Forest).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. How comfortable will quarterback Jason Campbell be in his first year running Jim Zorn's scheme, the third offense the quarterback has had to learn in four NFL seasons? Campbell did thrive in a similar West Coast system as a senior at Auburn in 2005.
2. Shawn Springs and Marcus Washington have been to Pro Bowls. Cornelius Griffin should have gone in 2004. All have fought injuries in recent years and all will be at least 31 by Halloween. Can they regain their peak form under defensive coordinator Greg Blache?
3. Jon Jansen and Randy Thomas formed a formidable right side of the offensive line in 2003, 2005 and 2006. But Jansen missed 2004 with a ruptured Achilles and neither one lasted even six quarters in 2007. Both are 32. Are they over the hill?

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jason Campbell

It's not fair to compare a 26-year-old with 19 full NFL starts on his resume to Hall of Famers Sammy Baugh and Sonny Jurgensen and Super Bowl winners Joe Theismann, Doug Williams and Mark Rypien, but that's the nature of being the Redskins' quarterback.

Campbell's numbers under former offensive coordinator Al Saunders — 22 touchdowns, 17 interceptions, 3,997 yards and a 77.6 passer rating — were solid, but nothing more. His completion percentage jumped from 53.1 in 2006 to 60.0 in 2007 before a dislocated kneecap ended his season with three-plus games remaining.

Campbell has a strong arm and is surprisingly agile and very poised despite his relative lack of NFL experience. However, Campbell is just 7-12 in games he has played from start to finish. The Redskins were 7-6 in their other games the past two years. For Campbell to take the next step, he has to be a reason why Washington wins.

He will be under the microscope even more this season, learning a new offense and being tutored closely by head coach Jim Zorn.

was the Redskins' best defensive player until his body began to betray him in December, 2006. Injuries plagued him throughout 2007. Middle linebacker London Fletcher is just 5-10 and has turned 33, but he was an instant leader on and off the field in his first season in Washington. If weak-side starter Rocky McIntosh shows no ill effects from the knee injury that ended his season in December, the Redskins will be fine here despite the lack of proven backups other than special-teamer Khary Campbell. Personnel chief Vinny Cerrato probably erred by not drafting a linebacker or signing one in early free agency.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The Redskins lost Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor to a knee injury in November and then to a tragic shooting death two weeks later. Fred Smoot will fill in until inconsistent young cornerback Carlos Rogers returns from major knee surgery, perhaps in October. Shawn Springs rebounded from an injury-riddled 2006 to prove he was still an elite corner at 32 and safety LaRon Landry justified being the sixth choice in the 2007 draft with a fine rookie year. Reed Doughty, a sixth-rounder in 2006, was solid in December, but he'll never be the player Taylor was. Fourth-rounder J.T. Tyron has the confidence to push Leigh Torrence for the fourth corner job.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

After setting team records in 2006, Rock Cartwright upped his average 1.7 yards in 2007, but still faces a serious challenge from Mathis for the kickoff return job. Randle El has been a bust on punt returns after excelling in that area with Pittsburgh. In his first full NFL season, Shaun Suisham gave the Redskins their most accurate kicking since Chip Lohmiller's 1991 heyday. Punter Derrick Frost followed a career year in 2006 with a hot start before tailing off dramatically. Snapper Ethan Albright went to his first Pro Bowl at 36. The coverage teams, led by Khary Campbell and Cartwright, remained top notch.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

There was tangible chemistry as the Redskins rallied from a 5-6 record when Taylor died to go 4-1 in December and lead the Seahawks on the road in the playoffs. However, that "win for Sean" credo is probably old news in 2008 and it remains to be seen if the players will play as hard for Zorn and Blache as they did for Gibbs and Williams. Competing in the rigorous NFC East makes winning even more difficult. On the positive side, the roster has won together and the Redskins have only six games (the Giants and Dallas twice each, Seattle and Pittsburgh) against 2007 playoff teams.

RATING: Minus 1

— David Elfin

2007 RESULTS

Record: 9-8

Sep. 9	MIAMI (OT)	16-13
Sep. 17	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	20-12
Sep. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	17-24
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	DETROIT	34- 3
Oct. 14	at Green Bay	14-17
Oct. 21	ARIZONA	21-19
Oct. 28	at New England	7-52
Nov. 4	at N.Y. Jets (OT)	23-20
Nov. 11	PHILADELPHIA	25-33
Nov. 18	at Dallas	23-28
Nov. 25	at Tampa Bay	13-19
Dec. 2	BUFFALO	16-17
Dec. 6	CHICAGO (Thu.)	24-16
Dec. 16	at N.Y. Giants	22-10
Dec. 23	at Minnesota	32-21
Dec. 30	DALLAS	27- 6
Jan. 5	at Seattle (Sat.)	14-35

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 3	Indianapolis, Canton	8:00
Aug. 9	BUFFALO (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at N.Y. Jets (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	at Carolina (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	JACKSONVILLE (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 4	at N.Y. Giants (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 14	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Sep. 21	ARIZONA	1:00
Sep. 28	at Dallas	3:15
Oct. 5	at Philadelphia	1:00
Oct. 12	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Oct. 19	CLEVELAND	4:15
Oct. 26	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 3	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	8:30
Nov. 9	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 16	DALLAS	8:15
Nov. 23	at Seattle	1:15
Nov. 30	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
Dec. 7	at Baltimore	1:00
Dec. 14	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 21	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Dec. 28	at San Francisco	1:15

NFC NORTH

Life Without Brett

It had to happen sometime: the NFL, and Green Bay, without Brett Favre. The gunslinging quarterback, who hated to lose but loved to smile, finally called it quits after 17 seasons in the NFL. Favre spent the last 16 seasons with the Packers leading them to seven division championships and two Super Bowls with his strong will and strong arm. Packers fans waited a quarter of a century between Bart Starr and Favre. They can only hope it doesn't take that long for the next Packers great to emerge at quarterback. History doesn't favor them. Denver has won only one division title and one playoff game since John Elway called it quits after the 1998 season. Miami has won only one division title and one playoff game since Dan Marino retired following the '99 campaign. It's up to Aaron Rodgers, who has the unenviable task of filling Favre's shoes, to keep Cheeseheads everywhere happy. If not, this division could be up for grabs. Quarterback play seems to be an issue everywhere in the North. But Minnesota, with the dynamic Adrian Peterson at running back and a formidable defense, could be the team to beat.

CHICAGO BEARS

The Bears have this strange habit lately of discarding their top skill position players — and not really replacing them. Last year, running back Thomas Jones was traded to the Jets where he rushed for 1,119 yards, or nearly 450 more than his replacement did in Chicago, Cedric Benson. This off-season, talented wide receiver Bernard Berrian flew the coop in free agency. The solution to losing Berrian (and releasing No. 2 wideout Muhsin Muhammad) was adding retreads Marty Booker and Brandon Lloyd. Unless the team gets an instant impact from second-round running back Matt Forte and third-round wide receiver Earl Bennett, this offense will be more plodding than ever.

DETROIT LIONS

Amazingly, the perpetually rebuilding Lions seemed surprised that Mike Martz likes to pass the football. In search of balance, Martz is out and Jim Colletto is in as offensive coordinator. Colletto promises more emphasis on the running game, but not with Kevin Jones, the latest in a long line of recent first-rounders to wash out in Motown. Tatum Bell, third-round draft pick Kevin Smith, and Brian Calhoun will all battle for carries. With Martz gone, Jon Kitna's stranglehold on the quarterback job is no more. He could be pushed by youngsters Dan Orlovsky and Drew Stanton, throwing to a talented receiver corps headed by Roy Williams and Calvin Johnson.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

With a strong arm and underrated athleticism, Rodgers may play better than most observers expect. Plus, he'll have a strong supporting cast assembled by general manager Ted Thompson, on what in several areas still looks like a young and ascending team. Greg Jennings, Donald Driver, James Jones, and rookie Jordy Nelson form one of the league's best receiving corps. Running back Ryan Grant must show he's no one-year wonder. The defense is one of the league's better units, with Aaron Kampman and Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila bringing the heat at end, a young and active linebacker unit, and aggressive veteran corners in Al Harris and Charles Woodson.

MINNESOTA

All the other pieces to the puzzle seem to be in place. So the Vikings will go as far as Tarvaris Jackson takes them at quarterback. Jackson remains a work in progress. He can beat you with his legs as evidenced by his three rushing touchdowns and his 4.8-yard rushing average last season. But can he beat you with his arm? An improved passing game could carry the Vikings to their first division title since the days of Randy Moss and Daunte Culpepper at the turn of the millennium. On defense, the Vikings are next to impossible to run against, and newcomer Jared Allen adds a spark to the pass rush at end.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Will this be Rex Grossman's breakout year?

Please. If he hasn't done it by now, it's not going to happen in year No. 6 in the NFL. This could be Kyle Orton's team, at least for this season.

2. Can Detroit stop anyone on defense?

Highly debatable. Coach Rod Marinelli seemingly has brought in every ex-Buccaneer possible to help, including defensive backs Brian Kelly, Dwight Smith and Kalvin Pearson.

3. Will Aaron Rodgers make it through a full 16 games?

No. After watching Brett Favre make it through a league-record 275 starts, the odds have to even up sometime. Despite playing sparingly, Rodgers missed 10 games over the past two seasons with injuries.

4. Will Adrian Peterson make it through a full 16 games?

Probably not. The most electric runner this side of LaDainian Tomlinson isn't injury-prone. He just runs so hard that injuries are almost inevitable.

5. Who will have the best rookie season in the division?

Vanderbilt's Chris Williams (Bears) looks like an instant starter at left tackle. Too bad he doesn't have a proven quarterback, proven feature back, or proven receivers to block for.

—Jim Thomas

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68%	All My **Best Bet Club NFL Plays** for the Entire Season					
67%	The first three **College Football Las Vegas Steam Games of the Season**					
72%	The First 3 **NFL Las Vegas Steam Games of the Season**					
80%	My **50-Unit Rated College Kickoff Crusher**					
	9/1 Georgia Tech +1½	33	Notre Dame	3		W
86%	My **50 Unit Rated College Football Rivalry Game of the Year.**					
	9/15 Kentucky +5½	40	Louisville	34		W
78%	My **50-Unit AFC Game of the Year**					
	9/16 Steelers -10	26	Bills	3		W
79%	My **50-Unit NFC Game of the Year**					
	9/30 Cowboys -13	35	Rams	7		W
97%	My **100-Unit Chairman's Club NFL Game of the Year**					
	11/4 Lions -3	44	Broncos	7		W
95%	My **100-Unit College Shocker of the Year**					
	11/10 Nebraska +7½	73	Kansas State	31		W

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* Authored over 1,000 articles on handicapping seen in ***College & Pro Football Newsweekly, and Sportsform.***
* Seen on **TV's ProLine** (USA Cable Network) and host of Las Vegas radio show ***"The Winner's Roundtable"***
* Profiled in: ***Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Playboy.***

CHICAGO BEARS

2007 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Soldier Field, 61,500, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

NFC NORTH | www.chicagobears.com

AT A GLANCE

Halas Hall
1000 Football Drive
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847) 295-6600

TRAINING CAMP:
Olivet Nazarene University; Bourbonnais, IL

COACH:
Lovie Smith, 5th year with Bears and as NFL head coach (38-30)

PRESIDENT:
Ted Phillips

GENERAL MANAGER:
Jerry Angelo

SENIOR DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Bobby DePaul

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Greg Gabriel

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Ron Turner	Offensive coordinator	8	8
Pep Hamilton	Quarterbacks	6	2
Harry Hiestand	Offensive line	4	4
Luke Butkus	Asst. offensive line	2	2
Tim Spencer	Running backs	5	5
Darryl Drake	Receivers	5	5
Charles London	Assistant receivers	2	2
Rob Boras	Tight ends	5	5
Bob Babich	Defensive coordinator	6	5
Brick Haley	Defensive line	2	2
Eric Washington	Assistant line	1	1
Lloyd Lee	Linebackers	5	5
Steven Wilks	Secondary	3	3
Gill Byrd	Asst. secondary/safeties	6	3
Dave Toub	Special teams coordinator	8	5
Chris Tabor	Asst. special teams	1	1
Rusty Jones	Strength & Cond.	24	4
Jim Arthur	Strength & Cond.	4	4

Many Holes to Fill Just Two Years After Super Bowl

Whether they want to admit it or not, the Bears face a major rebuilding project for 2008 — at least on offense, where they had the league's 30th-ranked running attack in 2007 and were 27th in total yards.

They don't know who the starting quarterback will be. The battle between oft-injured incumbent Rex Grossman and challenger Kyle Orton, who has thrown just 80 regular-season passes in the past two years, could last well into the preseason. "It's an open competition," coach Lovie Smith said. Ditto, the featured running back, where disappointing Cedric Benson is trying to return from a fractured ankle and may not be able to hold off a challenge from second-round draft pick Matt Forte. The top two receivers of the past two seasons — Bernard Berrian and Muhsin Muhammad — are gone. Two starters from last year's ineffective offensive line — right tackle Fred Miller and left guard Ruben Brown — have to be replaced.

The defense is pretty similar to the one that led the Bears to Super Bowl XLI, but it was decimated by injuries in 2007. It's still young enough to play at a playoff level if healthy.

COACHING

Lovie Smith is signed through 2011, so he has job security, but he won't be immune from criticism if the team doesn't rebound from last season's 7-9 mark. His top assistants aren't nearly as entrenched. The defense nose-dived last season with Bob Babich replacing Ron Rivera as coordinator. Injuries hit hard at almost every position, although Smith must share some of the blame. If Ron Turner's offense doesn't show significant improvement, especially the running game, he'll be on the hot seat, too.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

Critics would say that neither Grossman nor Orton are good enough to lead a team to the playoffs, but the facts say otherwise. Grossman was the starter in Super Bowl XLI. He was plagued by severe inconsistencies that season, mixing spectacular performances with meltdowns. His progress has frequently been derailed by injuries, and he played himself out of the starting job last season. But he redeemed himself by performing much better when he was given the job back — before suffering another injury (sprained knee). Orton went 10-5 as an emergency rookie starter in the playoff season of 2005 despite his 59.7 passer rating in a scaled-back offense. He didn't play in a game for two years after that until starting the final three games last season, when he performed well enough to be promised an opportunity to compete for the starting job.

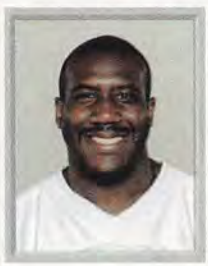
RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

With the exception of the second half of the

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Marty Booker



He figures to be the go-to guy, considering all of the returning wide receivers on the Bears' roster have a combined total of 97 career catches, three less than the 100 receptions Booker had for the Bears in the 2001 season.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
WR Brandon Lloyd

KEY LOSS:
WR Bernard Berrian (16/15)*
He led the Bears with 71 catches last season and his 951 receiving yards were 381 more than the runner-up. Berrian accomplished that despite playing with three mediocre quarterbacks.

OTHER LOSSES
S Adam Archuleta (15/10), LB Brendon Ayanbadejo (16/0), OG Ruben Brown (8/8), TE John Gilmore (15/1), QB Brian Griese (7/6), OT Fred Miller (15/15), WR Muhsin Muhammad (16/16), DT Darwin Walker (11/7)

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 7 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

2006 season, Benson has done almost nothing to justify his selection as the fourth player in the 2005 draft, and last year's season-ending fractured ankle was the fourth serious injury of his disappointing NFL career. That's why the Bears drafted Forte 44th overall. He can be a workhorse and an effective three-down back and will either push the laid-back Benson to become more productive or take his job. "He gives us a big back; a three-down back," general manager Jerry Angelo said. "He's got enough speed to get to the outside, and he has the ability to make people miss at the second level." Adrian Peterson is an adequate backup and solid receiver in third-down situations. Garrett Wolfe may be too tiny to factor as a runner in all but special situations, but he can be a dangerous receiver out of the backfield.

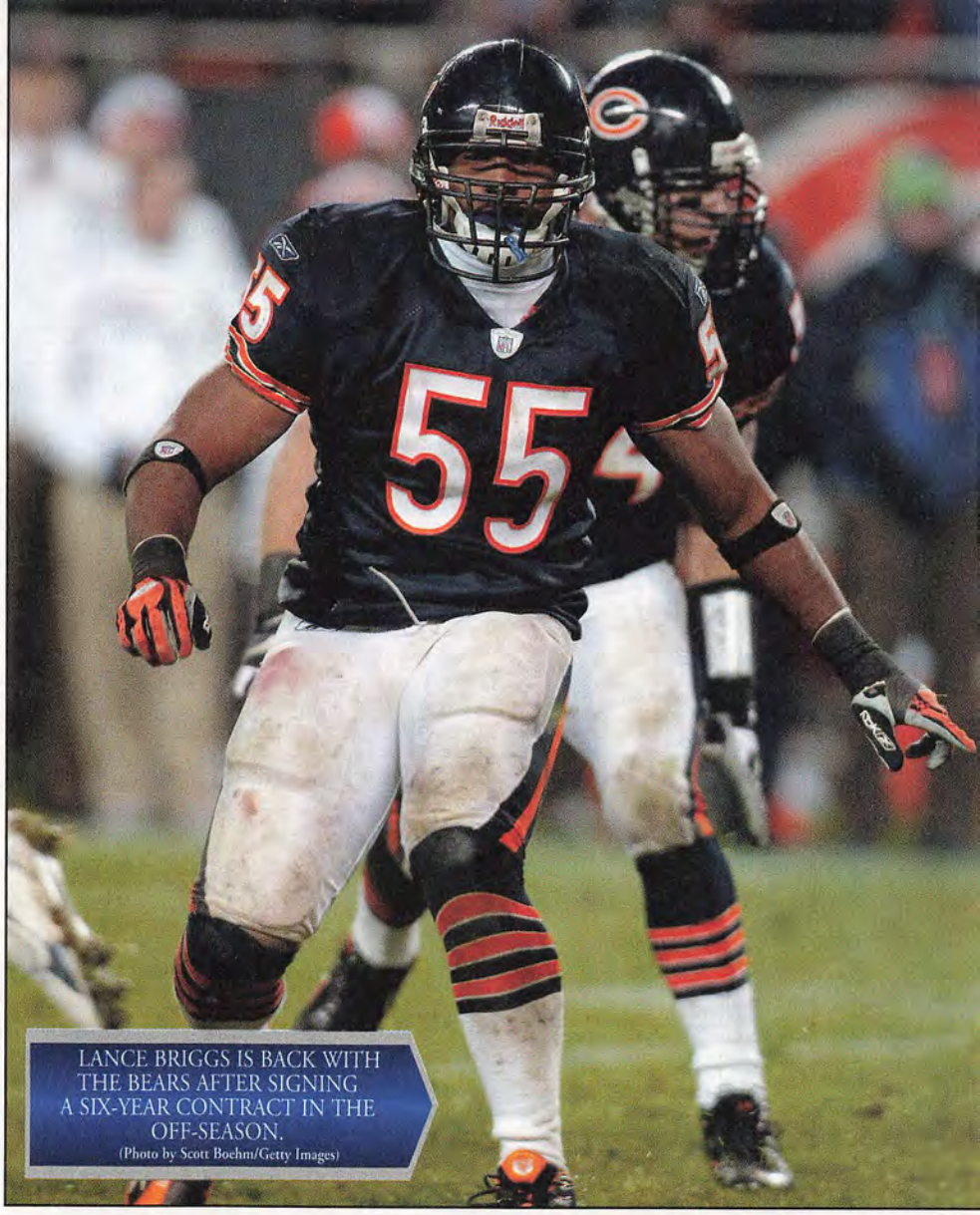
RATING: 6

RECEIVERS

It remains to be seen if there is a No. 1 receiver on the roster after deep-threat Berrian bolted to the Vikings for $42 million in free agency and over-the-hill Muhammad was cut. In the off-season, the Bears brought back 10-year veteran Marty Booker, who had back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons for them in 2001-02 before being traded to the Dolphins in 2004. Booker may be the go-to guy by default, but he is more of a possession receiver, although one who will make tough catches over the middle. The Bears believe Devin Hester can become a No. 1 receiver in time, but he's still a project. He caught just 20 passes last season, but 11 came in the final four games, and he's a threat to score every time he touches the ball as evidence by his record-setting performance as a return specialist. Mark Bradley has plenty of physical tools, and he showed glimpses of greatness as a rookie in 2005, but he caught just six passes last season, although the Bears still have high hopes. Underachieving Brandon Lloyd was signed in the off-season, but productive third-round pick Earl Bennett may play a bigger role.

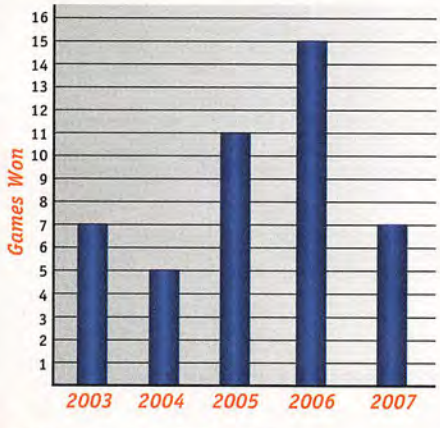
Tight end Greg Olsen flashed star potential as a rookie last season and is the star of the future, but he went long stretches where he seemed to disappear from the passing game. Ten-year veteran Desmond Clark was actually the team's leading receiver among tight ends, and refuses to go away.

RATING: 6



LANCE BRIGGS IS BACK WITH THE BEARS AFTER SIGNING A SIX-YEAR CONTRACT IN THE OFF-SEASON.
(Photo by Scott Boehm/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005, 2006*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Ideally, first-round pick Chris Williams will take the left tackle job, allowing 33-year-old John Tait to move to the right side, replacing the released Miller, and giving the Bears an upgrade at two positions on a unit where they were deficient and ancient last season. Eleven-year veteran center Olin Kreutz has made six Pro Bowls but didn't get invited last season, although he is still one of the best. Right guard Roberto Garza is solid, but the left guard spot vacated by Brown is up for grabs. The contenders are journeyman backup tackle John St. Clair, who started the final three games there last season; seven-year veteran Terrence Metcalf, who has frequently played himself out of starting gigs in the past; and Josh Beekman, a fourth-round pick in 2007 who didn't warrant a single snap last season although there were opportunities.

RATING: 6

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

A strong and deep group that was ravaged by injuries at tackle last season. Three-time Pro Bowler Tommie Harris played hurt most of the season in '07 and his performance dropped off after seven sacks in the first eight games. There were high hopes for nose tackle Dusty Dvoracek early on, but he suffered a season-ending torn ACL in the season opener. He also missed his 2006 season as a rookie with a foot injury, but is a legitimate starter if he can stay healthy. Anthony Adams was effective filling in at both tackle spots, but he also finished the season on injured reserve. Rookie Marcus Harrison is expected to add depth and contribute in the tackle rotation. The Bears believe they have three starting ends. Eight-year veteran left end Adewale Ogunleye is coming off his best of four seasons in Chicago, right end Alex Brown

Bears Pre-Camp Roster

RECEIVERS

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
85	Bennett, Earl	6-0	209	R	Vanderbilt	0/0	D3 08	D3 CHI 08	Big, super-productive possession type could get on the field soon.
86	**Booker, Marty**	**6-0**	**210**	**10**	**Northeast Louisiana**	**15/15**	**FA 08**	**D3 CHI 99**	**Tough, physical underneath type is the dean of the group and could be go-to guy.**
16	**Bradley, Mark**	**6-2**	**198**	**4**	**Oklahoma**	**15/0**	**D2 05**	**D2 CHI 05**	**Underachiever has struggled for consistency, but has physical tools.**
88	**Clark, Desmond (TE)**	**6-3**	**249**	**10**	**Wake Forest**	**16/16**	**UFA,MIA 03**	**D6 DEN 99**	**Reliable, productive safety valve refuses to relinquish starting job.**
87	Davis, Kellen (TE)	6-7	262	R	Michigan State	0/0	D5 08	D5 CHI 08	Looks the part, but has always underachieved and will need to be pushed.
81	Davis, Rashied	5-9	187	4	San Jose State	16/1	CFA 05	CFA CHI 05	Clutch, role-playing slot receiver who contributes on special teams.
83	Hass, Mike	6-1	206	2	Oregon State	1/0	FA 07	D6 NO 06	Good size, OK speed, never got a chance despite near-flawless hands.
23	Hester, Devin (CB/KR)	5-11	186	3	Miami	16/0	D2 06	D2 CHI 06	Raw talent who has as much big-play ability as anyone in the NFL.
80	*Lloyd, Brandon	6-0	200	6	Illinois	8/1	FA 08	D4 SF 03	Inconsistent and has never lived up to the hype, but is physically gifted.
89	Mines, Fontel (TE)	6-4	244	1	Virginia	0/0	FA 07	CFA CHI 07	Athletic former wide receiver is still growing into TE, spot but is more of an H-back.
19	Monk, Marcus	6-4	222	R	Arkansas	0/0	D7 08	D7 CHI 08	Big, rangy possession guy whose college career was hindered by injuries.
82	Olsen, Greg (TE)	6-5	254	2	Miami	14/4	D1 07	D1 CHI 07	Runs and moves like a wide receiver and can stretch the field and make acrobatic grabs.
84	Rideau, Brandon	6-3	200	2	Kansas	0/0	FA 07	CFA CLV 05	Tall, lanky possession type lacks speed and run-after-the-catch ability.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

72	Adams, Chester (G)	6-4	335	R	Georgia	0/0	D7 08	D7 CHI 08	Big, powerful guard who needs to keep his weight down and his motor up.
69	Barton, Kirk (T)	6-5	310	R	Ohio State	0/0	D7 08	D7 CHI 08	Experienced tough guy has a passion for the game, but lacks athleticism.
67	Beekman, Josh (G/C)	6-2	310	2	Boston College	1/0	D4 07	D4 CHI 07	Solid and rugged: has the smarts and desire to overcome physical limitations.
63	**Garza, Roberto (G)**	**6-2**	**310**	**8**	**Texas A&M-Kingsville**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D4 ATL 01**	**Adequate starter is strong, powerful and effective in limited area.**
57	**Kreutz, Olin (C)**	**6-2**	**292**	**11**	**Washington**	**16/16**	**D3 98**	**D3 CHI 98**	**Smart, nasty competitor is probably past his peak, but still one of the best.**
60	**Metcalf, Terrence (G)**	**6-4**	**318**	**7**	**Mississippi**	**16/5**	**D3 02**	**D3 CHI 02**	**Never lived up to expectations and may never be more than a backup.**
68	Oakley, Anthony (C/G)	6-4	298	3	Western Kentucky	3/0	FA 06	CFA CLV 04	Career inside backup who lacks the size and agility to be much more.
78	St. Clair, John (T)	6-5	315	9	Virginia	16/5	FA 05	D3 STL 00	Experienced tackle backup showed versatility by starting three games at guard in '07.
76	**Tait, John (T)**	**6-6**	**312**	**10**	**Brigham Young**	**15/15**	**TFA,KC 04**	**D1 KC 99**	**Long-time starter and solid technician may be better served by move to right tackle.**
74	**Williams, Chris (T)**	**6-6**	**315**	**R**	**Vanderbilt**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 CHI 08**	**Prototypical left tackle is big, smart, agile and athletic, but needs to get stronger.**

RUNNING BACKS

32	*Benson, Cedric	5-11	220	4	Texas	11/11	D1 05	D1 CHI 05	Disappointment; has not shown the special traits that made him a high pick.
22	**Forte, Matt**	**6-2**	**222**	**R**	**Tulane**	**0/0**	**D2 08**	**D2 CHI 08**	**Good fit for power run game and catches well, but lacks breakaway speed.**
37	**McKie, Jason (FB)**	**5-11**	**245**	**6**	**Temple**	**16/11**	**FA 03**	**CFA PHA 02**	**Tough lead blocker who has good hands, but won't do much after the catch.**
29	Peterson, Adrian	5-10	210	7	Georgia Southern	16/5	D6 02	D6 CHI 02	One-cut runner lacks speed; effective receiver, stands out on special teams.
39	Polite, Lousaka (FB)	6-0	242	4	Pittsburgh	5/0	FA 07	CFA DALL 04	Stout, strong, hammer-type lead blocker who can play special teams.
47	Pope, P.J.	5-9	212	2	Bowling Green	0/0	FA 07	CFA CHI 06	Solid build, can run and catch, works hard, but lacks special physical traits.
48	*Runnells, J.D. (FB)	5-11	240	3	Oklahoma	0/0	D6 06	D6 CHI 06	Catches pretty well, but isn't physical enough as a lead blocker.
25	Wolfe, Garrett	5-7	186	2	Northern Illinois	13/0	D3 07	D3 CHI 07	Tiny, but has elite quickness and big-play potential, especially as a receiver.

QUARTERBACKS

8	**Grossman, Rex**	**6-1**	**217**	**6**	**Florida**	**8/7**	**D1 03**	**D1 CHI 03**	**Inconsistent and injury prone, but has quick delivery and knows the game.**
17	Hill, Nick	6-3	210	R	Southern Illinois	0/0	CFA 08	CFA CHI 08	Smart southpaw, has smarts, good intangibles and decent physical skills.
18	Orton, Kyle	6-4	217	4	Purdue	3/3	D4 05	D4 CHI 05	Has good arm strength and stature, but limited experience and mobility.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

95	*Adams, Anthony (T)	6-0	300	6	Penn State	11/8	UFA,SF 07	D2 SF 03	Productive at both tackle spots; stepped up as solid starter when injuries hit.
97	*Anderson, Mark (E)	6-4	255	3	Alabama	14/14	D5 06	D5 CHI 06	Slumped as starter after huge rookie season, but has great pass-rush talent.
99	Baldwin, Ervin (E)	6-2	270	R	Michigan State	0/0	D7 08	D7 CHI 08	Disruptive behind the line of scrimmage and as a situational pass rusher.
73	*Bazuin, Dan (E)	6-3	260	2	Central Michigan	0/0	D2 07	D2 CHI 07	Knee injury wiped out rookie season, but has high motor and pass-rush talent.
96	**Brown, Alex (E)**	**6-3**	**260**	**7**	**Florida**	**16/2**	**D4 02**	**D4 CHI 02**	**Active, hard-working pass rusher who also plays the run well for his size.**
98	***Dvoracek, Dusty (T)**	**6-3**	**303**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**1/1**	**D3 06**	**D3 CHI 06**	**Injuries have derailed him, but he's a stout, tough force on the nose.**
91	**Harris, Tommie (T)**	**6-3**	**295**	**5**	**Oklahoma**	**16/13**	**D1 04**	**D1 CHI 04**	**Elite, disruptive talent battled injuries in '07; still made third Pro Bowl.**
94	Harrison, Marcus (T)	6-3	310	R	Arkansas	0/0	D3 08	D3 CHI 08	Talent to be in rotation immediately if he's focused and over knee injuries.
71	Idonije, Israel (E)	6-6	275	5	Manitoba	16/3	FA 04	CFA CLV 03	Big, athletic and versatile enough to play inside, outside and on special teams.
93	**Ogunleye, Adewale (E)**	**6-4**	**260**	**8**	**Indiana**	**16/16**	**T,MIA 04**	**CFA MIA 00**	**Coming off nine-sack season when he played at near Pro Bowl level.**
75	Toeaina, Matt (T)	6-2	311	1	Oregon	3/0	FA 07	D6 CIN 07	Impressed in late-season audition with ability to penetrate the backfield.

LINEBACKERS

55	**Briggs, Lance (O)**	**6-1**	**240**	**6**	**Arizona**	**14/14**	**D3 03**	**D3 CHI 03**	**Productive, athletic durable tackling machine has a nose for the ball.**
92	**Hillenmeyer, Hunter (O)**	**6-4**	**238**	**6**	**Vanderbilt**	**16/14**	**FA 03**	**D5 GB 03**	**Smarts and instincts more than make up for limited athleticism.**
90	LaRocque, Joey	6-2	226	R	Oregon State	0/0	D7 08	D7 CHI 08	Two-year starter and leading tackler has a chance on special teams.
58	McClover, Darrell (O)	6-1	226	5	Miami	5/0	FA 06	D7 NYJ 04	Undersized, but has the speed and quickness to excel on special teams.
62	*Okwo, Michael	5-11	232	2	Stanford	0/0	D3 07	D3 CHI 07	Unimpressive athlete, but productive; injury wiped out rookie season.
53	Roach, Nick (O)	6-0	234	2	Northwestern	3/0	FA 07	CFA SD 07	Competitor with special-teams mentality who must stay healthy.
54	**Urlacher, Brian (M)**	**6-4**	**258**	**9**	**New Mexico**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 CHI 00**	**Slumped briefly in '07, but had several games where he looked as good as ever.**
52	Williams, Jamar (O)	6-0	237	3	Arizona State	16/1	D4 06	D4 CHI 06	Could be top backup at all three spots because of smarts and versatility.
59	Wilson, Rod (M)	6-2	230	4	South Carolina	15/0	D7 05	D7 CHI 05	Fast and active, but not physical, although he's a key special teams guy.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

35	Bowman, Zackary (CB)	6-0	197	R	Nebraska	0/0	D5 08	D5 CHI 08	Big, fast athlete who has serious durability and injury questions.
30	***Brown, Mike (S)**	**5-10**	**207**	**9**	**Nebraska**	**1/1**	**D2 00**	**D2 CHI 00**	**Ex-Pro Bowler has suffered serious injuries in each of the past four seasons.**
43	Gattis, Josh (S)	6-1	207	2	Wake Forest	4/0	FA 07	D5 JAX 07	Not very tough or physical, but has the athleticism to contribute.
21	Graham, Corey (CB)	6-0	195	2	New Hampshire	13/0	D5 07	D5 CHI 07	Made a major impression on special teams and could factor as an extra DB.
38	**Manning, Danieal (S)**	**5-11**	**198**	**3**	**Abilene Christian**	**16/15**	**D2 06**	**D2 CHI 06**	**A great athlete with size and speed whose instincts seem to be lacking.**
24	Manning, Ricky (CB)	5-9	193	6	UCLA	16/5	RFA,CARO 06	D3 CARO 03	Valuable nickel corner in the past who may not fit under the cap anymore.
26	McBride, Trumaine (CB)	5-9	185	2	Mississippi	16/9	D7 07	D7 CHI 07	Pleasantly surprised when forced into starting role as a rookie.
36	McGowan, Brandon (S)	5-11	207	4	Maine	14/9	CFA 05	CFA CHI 05	Physical hitter who finally overcame injuries to play a full season.
44	*Payne, Kevin (S)	6-0	212	2	Louisiana-Monroe	3/1	D5 07	D5 CHI 07	Showed promise as potential starter before broken arm early in rookie season.
27	Steltz, Craig (S)	6-1	210	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D4 08	D4 CHI 08	Big, instinctive, smart player with soft hands, but average speed.
33	**Tillman, Charles (CB)**	**6-1**	**196**	**6**	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	**15/15**	**D2 03**	**D2 CHI 03**	**Physical corner matches up with big receivers and is a willing run supporter.**
31	***Vasher, Nathan (CB)**	**5-10**	**183**	**5**	**Texas**	**4/2**	**D4 04**	**D4 CHI 04**	**Great ball athlete and cover corner whose lingering groin injury was a killer.**

SPECIALISTS

9	Gould, Robbie (K)	6-0	183	4	Penn State	16/0	FA 05	CFA NE 05	Good as gold considering his consistency in sometimes-inclement weather.
65	Mannelly, Patrick (LS)	6-5	265	11	Duke	16/0	D6 98	D6 CHI 98	So consistent and precise that he goes unnoticed year after year.
4	Maynard, Brad (P)	6-1	188	12	Ball State	15/0	UFA,NYG 01	D3 NYG 97	Shows no signs of diminished skills or lack of consistency.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Curtis Hamilton (Western Kentucky); OT Cody Balogh (Montana); G Tyler Reed (1, Penn State); QB Caleb Hanie (Colorado State); RB Matt Lawrence (Massachusetts); DEs Joe Clermond (Pittsburgh), Nick Osborn (San Diego State); Ss Leslie Majors (Indiana). Leonard Peters (1, Hawaii); DB Trey Brown (UCLA); PK Shane Longest (St. Xavier); P Glenn Pakulak (1, Kentucky).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Rookie Chris Williams lining up as the starter at offensive left tackle. The Bears took him 14th overall to provide an immediate upgrade on a line that had become old and ineffective. If he doesn't start the season opener, it was a bad pick.
2. How much of a distraction Brian Urlacher becomes. Despite having four years left on a nine-year $56.65 million deal, the six-time Pro Bowler skipped voluntary workouts in April and May and was threatening to miss minicamp, even though the Bears offered to sweeten his deal by $18 million and add a year to the deal.
3. A quarterback to emerge. Rex Grossman and Kyle Orton will get equal opportunities to win the No. 1 job, but one of them will have to elevate the performance at that position for the Bears to get back to the playoffs.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Cedric Benson

Since being selected fourth overall in the 2005 draft, running back Cedric Benson's career has been mostly about injury and disappointment. In three seasons, Benson has had four significant injuries and never rushed for more than 674 yards in a season. Last season was his worst in average yards per carry, 3.4, and he had just one run of more than 21 yards, none on his first 177 carries, at which point he was averaging 3.0 yards per carry. His season ended after 12 games with a fractured ankle, which may not be 100 percent healed by training camp.

"Maybe he's not the featured back we thought he'd be," general manager Jerry Angelo said. "He's had those injuries. When we thought we were starting to see a little something, then he breaks his ankle. I and the coaches felt we needed to make sure that we protected that position."

As a result, the Bears drafted Matt Forte in the second round, and they appear more than ready to use him, not just as a complement to Benson, but possibly as a replacement if the veteran isn't ready to play like a first-round pick right from the start.

is solid vs. the run and the pass and Mark Anderson is a gifted pass rusher who slumped last season after a 12-sack rookie season.

RATING: 7.5

LINEBACKERS

Middle linebacker Brian Urlacher disrupted the off-season with his efforts to redo a contract that had four years remaining, but he remains the leader of the defense and is still an impact player, even though he missed the Pro Bowl last year for just the second time in eight seasons. On the weak side, Lance Briggs has made the past three Pro Bowls and got a six-year, $36 million deal to stay. He's still in his prime and is almost three years younger than Urlacher. Solid, unheralded strong-side linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer gets overlooked, but he is assignment sound and a major contributor in the base defense. Versatile Jamar Williams is the best of a young group of backups and may be the only one with starting potential.

RATING: 8.5

SECONDARY

Pass defense suffered horribly with Nate Vasher missing 12 games because of a torn groin muscle. But when he and Charles Tillman are healthy, the Bears have a quality cornerback tandem, and Ricky Manning Jr. has been a valuable nickel back, although he could become a salary-cap casualty after seventh-rounder Trumaine McBride played impressively as a fill-in last season. Safety is crowded but unsettled because of the lengthy injury history of Mike Brown and the failure of Adam Archuleta (since released) to hang on to a starting job last season. But there is a lot of young talent, including starting free safety Danieal Manning, Brandon McGowan, who got nine starts last season, last year's promising fifth-round pick Kevin Payne and this year's fourth-rounder Craig Steltz.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Devin Hester is simply the best, although his work may be scaled back a bit this year if he becomes a bigger factor as a receiver. Kicker Robbie Gould is consistent and accurate, punter Brad Maynard and long snapper Patrick Mannelly are steady, and the coverage units are outstanding.

RATING: 9

INTANGIBLES

The Packers are the defending NFC North champions and still the team to beat even without Brett Favre, while the Vikings appear to have made huge strides in the off-season. The Bears did almost nothing to strengthen a last-place team, settling for re-signing most of their own players, although they let their best offensive threat, Berrian, escape to Minnesota.

RATING: Minus 2

—Bob LeGere

2007 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 9	at San Diego	3-14
Sep. 16	KANSAS CITY	20-10
Sep. 23	DALLAS	10-34
Sep. 30	at Detroit	27-37
Oct. 7	at Green Bay	27-20
Oct. 14	MINNESOTA	31-34
Oct. 21	at Philadelphia	19-16
Oct. 28	DETROIT	7-16
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	at Oakland	17- 6
Nov. 18	at Seattle	23-30
Nov. 25	DENVER (OT)	37-34
Dec. 2	N.Y. GIANTS	16-21
Dec. 6	at Washington (Thu.)	16-24
Dec. 17	at Minnesota (Mon.)	13-20
Dec. 23	GREEN BAY	35- 7
Dec. 30	NEW ORLEANS	33-25

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	KANSAS CITY (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at Seattle (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 21	SAN FRANCISCO (Thu.)	8:00
Aug. 28	at Cleveland (Thu).	7:30
Sep. 7	at Indianapolis	8:15
Sep. 14	at Carolina	1:00
Sep. 21	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Sep. 28	PHILADELPHIA	7:15
Oct. 5	at Detroit	1:00
Oct. 12	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct. 19	MINNESOTA	12:00
Oct. 26	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 2	DETROIT	12:00
Nov. 9	TENNESSEE	12:00
Nov. 16	at Green Bay	12:00
Nov. 23	at St. Louis	12:00
Nov. 30	at Minnesota	7:15
Dec. 7	JACKSONVILLE	12:00
Dec. 11	NEW ORLEANS (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 22	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	7:30
Dec. 28	at Houston	12:00

DETROIT LIONS

2007 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Ford Field, 64,500, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

NFC NORTH | www.detroitlions.com

AT A GLANCE

222 Republic Drive
Allen Park, MI 48101
(313) 216-4000

TRAINING CAMP:
Lions Headquarters and Training Facility; Allen Park, MI

COACH:
Rod Marinelli, 3rd year with Lions and as NFL head coach (10-22)

PRESIDENT/CEO:
Matt Millen

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/COO:
Tom Lewand

SR. VICE PRESIDENT/ASST. GENERAL MANAGER:
Martin Mayhew

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Sheldon White

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Scott McEwen

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Jim Colletto	Offensive coordinator/OL	9	2
Kippy Brown	*Passing game coordinator	16	3
Scott Loeffler	Quarterbacks	1	1
Mike Barry	Asst. offensive line	3	3
Shawn Jefferson	Receivers	4	4
Pat Carter	Tight ends	5	3
Sam Gash	Running backs	4	2
Eric Sutulovic	Offensive assistant	5	1
Joe Barry	Defensive coordinator	9	2
Joe Cullen	Defensive line	3	3
Phil Snow	Linebackers	4	4
Jimmy Lake	Secondary	3	1
Clayton Lopez	Asst. Secondary	8	3
Don Clemons	Def. quality control	24	24
Stan Kwan	Special teams	18	9
Bradford Banta	Special teams asst.	1	1
Jason Arapoff	Physical development	21	8
Malcolm Blacken	Strength & Cond.	13	8
Kevin Tolbert	Strength & Cond.	1	1

*Assistant head coach

Still Striving to Change the Losing Culture

Lions vice chairman Bill Ford Jr. has called it "a very frustrating time." A lot of Lions fans would use stronger language.

The Lions have gone 31-81 since Matt Millen became team president in 2001. They haven't had a winning season since 2000. They haven't been in the playoffs since 1999.

It is the worst stretch in the history of a team that not only has never been in the Super Bowl, but has won only one playoff game since winning the 1957 NFL title.

But the Lions did go 7-9 last season, their best record of the Millen era. And entering his third season, coach Rod Marinelli has put his stamp on the team, providing some hope that things are slowly changing.

COACHING

Marinelli finally seems to have his staff set. After going 3-13 his first season, he replaced defensive coordinator Donnie Henderson with Joe Barry and offensive line coach Larry Beightol with Jim Colletto. After last season, he replaced offensive coordinator Mike Martz with Colletto and hired secondary coach Jimmy Lake.

Barry and Lake came straight from Tampa Bay with firsthand knowledge of the Tampa Two defense Marinelli loves. Colletto's philosophy is in line with Marinelli's. No more complicated system. No more games with six, seven or eight rushing attempts. The Lions will use a zone running scheme, develop some bread-and-butter plays and be more balanced.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

Veteran Jon Kitna got along well with Martz. When it looked like Martz would leave the Lions late last season, Kitna said he didn't want him to go. Now he has to adjust to life without him.

Kitna enters camp as the starter and is expected to enter the season as such. But he isn't quite entrenched.

At his introductory news conference, Colletto called Kitna just part of the squad. Colletto and Marinelli have been softer since, saying Kitna has the edge because of his experience. But they have made it clear that Drew Stanton, a second-round pick last year, and Dan Orlovsky, a fifth-round pick in 2005, will have a legitimate shot to compete.

Martz did not allow his quarterbacks to audible. All adjustments were built into the plays. But Colletto will give his quarterbacks more control at the line of scrimmage.

RATING: 7

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Leigh Bodden

The Lions almost traded Shaun Rogers to Cincinnati, but the deal fell through, and they ended up trading Rogers to Cleveland for a third-round pick and Leigh Bodden, who had six interceptions last season and fills a huge hole at cornerback.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DT Chuck Darby, TE Michael Gaines, LB Gilbert Gardner, CB Brian Kelly, S Kalvin Pearson, S Dwight Smith

KEY LOSS:
Shaun Rogers (16/16)*
The Lions felt they needed to part with Rogers because he was overweight, often underachieved and wasn't with the program. But Rogers was their most talented player and can be absolutely dominant when playing well.

OTHER LOSSES
LB Boss Bailey (15/12), S Idrees Bashir (9/1), CB Fernando Bryant (16/16), RB T.J. Duckett (12/1), DE Kalimba Edwards (8/6), RB Kevin Jones (13/10), S Kenoy Kennedy (16/15), LB Teddy Lehman (16/0), QB J.T. O'Sullivan (4/0), C/G Blaine Saipaia (14/1), OT Barry Stokes (0/0), WR Troy Walters (13/0), T/G Damien Woody (13/8)

STARTERS RETURNING:
16; 9 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

RUNNING BACKS

Not long after announcing they want to run the ball more, the Lions released Kevin Jones, a first-round pick in 2004, mostly because of injury concerns.

But the situation isn't necessarily bleak. The Lions' zone running scheme requires good vision and cutting ability, and the Lions have some backs with those qualities.

Tatum Bell was benched most of last season, but he was productive in a zone scheme with Denver the previous two years. Kevin Smith, a third-round pick this year, threatened Barry Sanders' college rushing record in a zone scheme at Central Florida last year. He is confident he can excel against NFL competition, too.

Brian Calhoun, a third-round pick in 2006, needs to show something after missing much of the last two seasons with a knee injury.

RATING: 6.5

RECEIVERS

The Lions want to run the ball more. But that doesn't mean they don't want to throw anymore.

Opponents used to keep their safeties deep, knowing Martz wouldn't run the ball. That made life difficult for big, outside receivers Roy Williams and Calvin Johnson and steered balls toward small, inside receivers Mike Furrey and Shaun McDonald.

The idea now is to force opponents to drop a safety into the box, opening up things for Williams and Johnson. The Lions say Furrey and McDonald remain an important part of the offense, but they are likely to have far fewer receptions.

Tight end Dan Campbell returns from injury with a cadaver's Achilles tendon in his right elbow. He has shown he can make big catches as well as block when healthy.

RATING: 9

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Lions ranked last in rushing in 2006 and second-to-last last year. They ranked second worst in sacks in 2006 and third-worst last year.

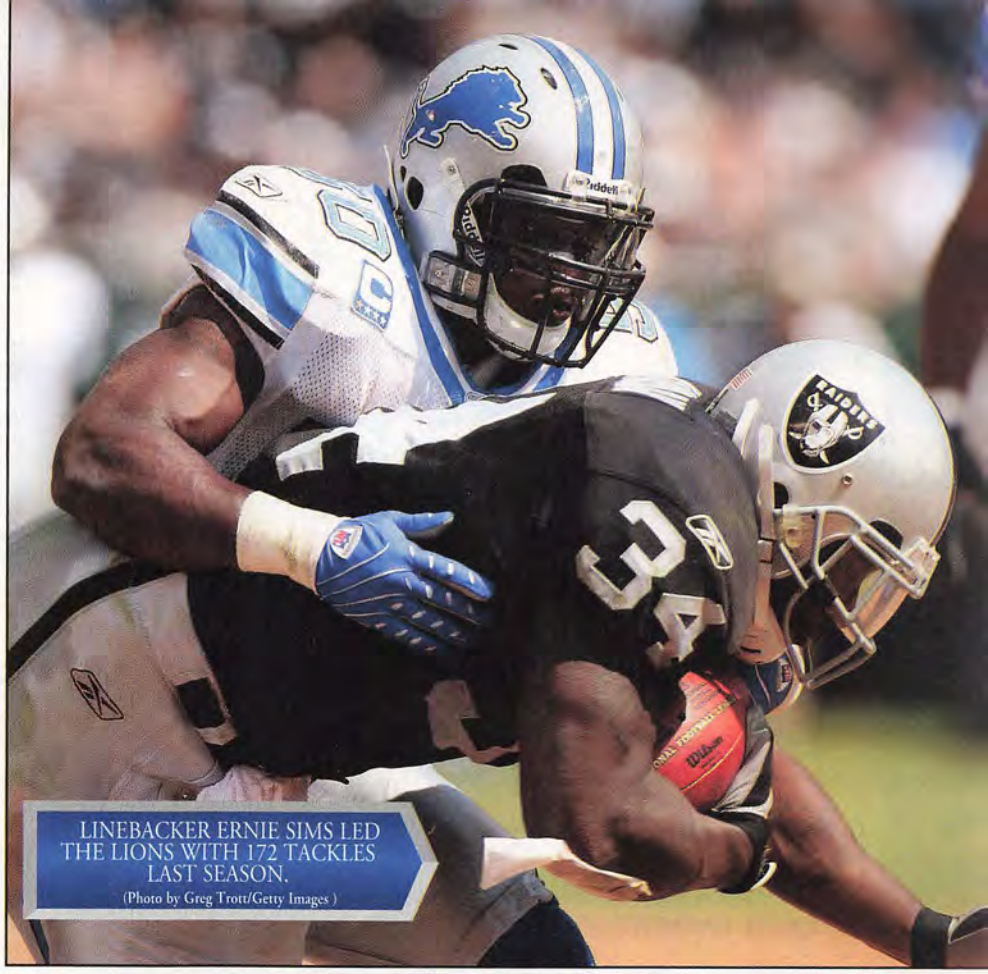
They blame a lot of that on Martz and think Colletto will put the line in a better position to succeed, playing to its strengths. Left tackle Jeff Backus won't be asked to hold up in pass protection on an island all day, for example.

Backus, left guard Edwin Mulitalo and center Dominic Raiola, a Pro Bowl alternate last year, seem entrenched. There should be competition at right guard and right tackle.

Stephen Peterman is penciled in as the right guard. The coaches love his competitiveness. But the Lions have young guards Frank Davis and Manny Ramirez battling for time.

Right tackle was a disaster last season. The Lions brought back George Foster, who struggled badly, but as insurance hoping the new scheme would suit him better. The Lions like Jonathan Scott, but he hasn't been able to stay healthy. They addressed the position in the first round by drafting Gosder Cherilus 17th overall.

RATING: 6.5



LINEBACKER ERNIE SIMS LED THE LIONS WITH 172 TACKLES LAST SEASON.
(Photo by Greg Trott/Getty Images)

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Tampa Two defense relies on a strong four-man rush, and Marinelli, a career defensive line coach, has said the front must drive the franchise.

But the Lions traded their best player, defensive tackle Shaun Rogers, and still lack an elite pass rusher. Rogers was dominant at his best, but was also overweight and often underachieved.

The Lions filled Rogers' void by signing veteran Chuck Darby and drafting Andre Fluellen in the third round. They drafted Cliff Avril in the third round as a pass rusher. Ikaika Alama-Francis, a second-round pick in 2007, remains raw and needs to develop.

Dewayne White, Cory Redding and Jared DeVries are veteran leaders, but Redding needs to bounce back from an unproductive season after signing a big contract last off-season.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

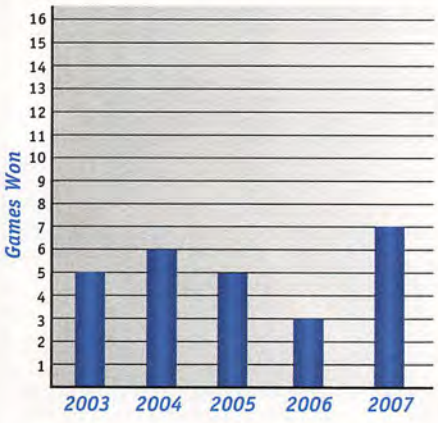
This unit simply has not made enough plays for the Lions in recent years. Boss Bailey and Teddy Lehman, second-round picks in 2003 and '04, were allowed to leave in free agency.

The Lions are set on the weak side with Ernie Sims, an all-out, aggressive tackler in the mold of Derrick Brooks. He might be the model Marinelli man. But they need to upgrade at middle linebacker, especially.

They were hoping to draft Jerod Mayo in the first round, but after New England swiped him, they settled for Jordon Dizon in the second. Dizon is undersized but energetic, and he was incredibly productive in college. If Dizon wins the middle job, veteran Paris Lenon will move to the strong side.

Alex Lewis has shown athleticism, especially on special teams, but has never seized a starting job. The Lions added depth by signing veterans Alfred Fincher and Gilbert Gardner.

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*

Lions Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	***Campbell, Dan (TE)**	**6-5**	**265**	**10**	**Texas A&M**	**2/1**	**UFA,DALL 06**	**D3 NYG 99**	**Returning from injury with a cadaver's Achilles in his right elbow.**
80	*Ellis, Devale	5-10	174	3	Hofstra	0/0	FA 06	CFA DET 06	Missed last season with a knee injury; could help his chances in return game.
82	Fitzsimmons, Casey (TE)	6-4	258	6	Carroll	16/5	CFA 03	CFA DET 03	Role is unclear now that Colletto has changed fullbacks and tight ends.
87	Furrey, Mike	6-0	195	6	Northern Iowa	16/10	FA 06	CFA IND 00	Won't catch as many balls now that Martz is gone; still a Marinelli guy.
86	Gaines, Michael (TE)	6-3	277	5	UCF	15/14	UFA,BUFF 08	D7 CARO 04	Good blocker wants to show he can be a complete tight end in Detroit.
81	**Johnson, Calvin**	**6-5**	**239**	**2**	**Georgia Tech**	**15/10**	**D1 07**	**D1 DET 07**	**Didn't live up to immense hype as a rookie while hobbled by back injury.**
84	McDonald, Shaun	5-10	183	6	Arizona State	16/7	UFA,STL 07	D4 STL 03	Like Furrey, will see fewer balls now that Colletto is coordinator.
10	Middleton, Brandon	5-10	190	2	Houston	5/0	FA 07	CFA DALL 04	Needs to shine in return game to win that last receiver spot.
17	Moore, Kenneth (PR)	5-11	195	R	Wake Forest	0/0	D5 08	D5 DET 08	Lions drafted him hoping he can give a boost to the return game.
83	Owens, John (TE)	6-3	255	6	Notre Dame	15/0	W,NO 07	D5 DET 02	Another traditional tight end to compete with Campbell and Gaines.
11	***Williams, Roy**	**6-3**	**211**	**5**	**Texas**	**12/12**	**D1 04**	**D1 DET 04**	**Lions lived up to their promise not to trade him;, expect big year.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
76	**Backus, Jeff (T)**	**6-5**	**305**	**8**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 DET 01**	**Lions think he will look better run-blocking in Colletto's scheme.**
77	**Cherilus, Gosder (T)**	**6-7**	**319**	**R**	**Boston College**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 DET 08**	**Tough, aggressive right tackle should fill a huge hole from last season.**
61	*Davis, Frank (G)	6-3	325	3	USF	0/0	CFA 06	CFA DET 06	Strong guard who grew up in Panama needs to develop technique.
74	Dunn, Jonathan (T)	6-7	324	2	Virginia Tech	0/0	FA 08	D7 CLV 05	Adds depth to a position that was troublesome for the Lions last year.
72	Foster, George (T)	6-5	338	6	Georgia	15/9	T,DEN 07	D1 DEN 03	Struggled badly last year, but might perform better in Colletto's offense.
71	Hulsey, Corey (G)	6-4	325	6	Clemson	0/0	FA 08	CFA BUFF 99	Played for Colletto when Colletto was offensive line coach in Oakland.
64	**Mulitalo, Edwin (G)**	**6-3**	**345**	**10**	**Arizona**	**15/15**	**FA 07**	**D4 BLT 99**	**Played for Colletto in Baltimore; dropped weight and looked solid last year.**
66	**Peterman, Stephen (G)**	**6-4**	**323**	**4**	**Louisiana State**	**13/13**	**FA 06**	**D3 DALL 04**	**Coaches love his competitiveness, but will have competition for job.**
51	**Raiola, Dominic (C)**	**6-1**	**295**	**8**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 DET 01**	**Undersized, but a fiery leader who was a Pro Bowl alternate last season.**
63	Ramirez, Manny (G)	6-3	326	2	Texas Tech	1/0	D4 07	D4 DET 07	Basically redshirted last season and needs to show progress in camp.
73	*Scott, Jonathan (T)	6-6	318	3	Texas	7/2	D5 06	D5 DET 06	Lions like his potential, but he keeps getting hurt when he gets a chance.
RUNNING BACKS									
28	**Bell, Tatum**	**5-11**	**213**	**5**	**Oklahoma State**	**5/5**	**T,DEN 07**	**D2 DEN 04**	**After sitting out last 11 games last season, he has new life in new zone scheme.**
40	**Bradley, Jon (FB)**	**6-0**	**301**	**5**	**Arkansas State**	**15/6**	**FA 07**	**CFA PHA 04**	**Former defensive tackle enters second season as a big lead blocker.**
29	*Calhoun, Brian	5-10	208	3	Wisconsin	4/0	D3 06	D3 DET 06	After missing a lot of time with a knee injury, needs to show some speed.
36	Cason, Aveion	5-10	204	7	Illinois State	12/0	FA 06	CFA STL 01	Dependable veteran keeps going on and off the Lions' roster.
45	Felton, Jerome (FB)	6-0	246	R	Furman	0/0	D5 08	D5 DET 08	Colletto says Felton can help Lions grind out the clock late in games.
49	McHugh, Sean (FB/TE)	6-5	265	3	Penn State	15/12	FA 06	D7 TENN 04	Role unclear now that Colletto has changed fullbacks and tight ends.
44	Pinner, Artose	5-10	232	5	Kentucky	7/0	FA 08	D4 DET 03	Back for another shot at competing for roster spot.
34	Smith, Kevin	6-1	217	R	UCF	0/0	D3 08	D3 DET 08	Very productive in college in same zone scheme Lions are installing.
QUARTERBACKS									
8	**Kitna, Jon**	**6-2**	**220**	**12**	**Central Washington**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 06**	**CFA SEA 96**	**Veteran will have more control at the line and more competition from youngsters.**
6	Orlovsky, Dan	6-5	230	4	Connecticut	0/0	D5 05	D5 DET 05	Has had little opportunity to play and still seems stuck as the third QB.
5	*Stanton, Drew	6-3	226	2	Michigan State	0/0	D2 07	D2 DET 07	Spent last season on IR after knee injury early in camp; starting from scratch.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
91	Alama-Francis, Ikaika (E)	6-5	280	2	Hawaii	6/0	D2 07	D2 DET 07	Raw project from Hawaii didn't develop as quickly as hoped last year.
97	Avril, Cliff (E)	6-3	253	R	Purdue	0/0	D3 08	D3 DET 08	Pass-rusher expected to help Lions get off on third down immediately.
75	Cody, Shaun (T)	6-4	310	4	Southern Cal	15/0	D2 05	D2 DET 05	Has been solid against the run, but needs to start penetrating into the backfield.
98	Cohen, Landon (T)	6-3	296	R	Ohio University	0/0	D7 08	D7 DET 08	Lions liked college film; adds depth and competition at defensive tackle.
94	***Darby, Chuck (T)**	**6-0**	**297**	**8**	**South Carolina State**	**6/6**	**UFA,SEA 08**	**CFA BLT 98**	**Veteran used to play for Marinelli in Tampa Bay; helps replace Shaun Rogers.**
95	**DeVries, Jared (E)**	**6-4**	**275**	**10**	**Iowa**	**14/10**	**D3 99**	**D3 DET 99**	**Veteran can start on the left end; valuable as role player and on special teams.**
96	Fluellen, Andre (T)	6-2	296	R	Florida State	0/0	D3 08	D3 DET 08	Often injured in college, but tough and fits Lions' system well.
79	Moore, Langston (T)	6-1	305	5	South Carolina	16/0	FA 06	D6 CIN 03	Another valuable role player Marinelli is comfortable plugging in any time.
78	**Redding, Cory (T)**	**6-4**	**295**	**6**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D3 03**	**D3 DET 03**	**Vocal leader must pick up production after one-sack performance last year.**
93	Smith, Corey (E)	6-2	250	6	North Carolina State	16/2	FA 06	CFA TB 02	Can fill in as a starter; often finds a way to make a play on the ball.
99	**White, Dewayne (E)**	**6-2**	**273**	**6**	**Louisville**	**14/14**	**UFA,TB 07**	**D2 TB 03**	**Veteran was having a career-year last season before bothered by injuries.**
LINEBACKERS									
47	Campbell, Caleb	6-2	229	R	Army	0/0	D7 08	D7 DET 08	Played safety at Army, but often dropped into the box and showed instincts.
52	Cannon, Anthony	6-0	228	3	Tulane	11/0	D7 06	D7 DET 06	Will be in stiff competition for one of the last linebacker spots.
55	Davis, Buster (M)	5-9	239	1	Florida State	1/0	FA 07	D3 ARIZ 07	Working hard after being cut by Arizona and spending last year on practice squad.
57	**Dizon, Jordan (O)**	**6-0**	**229**	**R**	**Colorado**	**0/0**	**D2 08**	**D2 DET 08**	**Undersized, but very productive in college; will compete to start in middle.**
58	Fincher, Alfred (M)	6-1	238	4	Connecticut	0/0	FA 08	D3 NO 05	Adds depth to the middle; also can play on the outside.
54	Gardner, Gilbert (O)	6-1	228	5	Purdue	13/0	UFA,TENN 08	D3 IND 04	Started 12 regular season games for Colts during 2006 Super Bowl season.
53	**Lenon, Paris (M)**	**6-2**	**235**	**7**	**Richmond**	**16/16**	**UFA,GB 06**	**CFA CAR 00**	**Veteran penciled in as starter in middle, but ideally will move to strong side.**
59	Lewis, Alex	6-0	230	5	Wisconsin	14/1	D5 04	D5 DET 04	Athletic on the strong side and special teams, but needs to make more plays.
50	**Sims, Ernie (O)**	**6-0**	**225**	**3**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 DET 06**	**Model Marinelli man plays the weak side as Derrick Brooks once did.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
42	Alexander, Gerald (S)	6-2	204	2	Boise State	16/16	D2 07	D2 DET 07	Pressed into starting service as a rookie after Bullocks suffered knee injury.
24	Blue, Greg (S)	6-2	216	3	Georgia	4/0	FA 07	D5 MINN 06	Made an impression after he got a chance to play last season because of injuries.
30	**Bodden, Leigh (CB)**	**6-1**	**193**	**6**	**Duquesne**	**16/16**	**T,CLV 08**	**CFA CLV 03**	**Lions were thrilled to get him in trade for Rogers; six picks last season.**
27	***Bullocks, Daniel (S)**	**6-0**	**212**	**3**	**Nebraska**	**0/0**	**D2 06**	**D2 DET 06**	**Expected to be ready for camp after missing last season with torn ACL.**
33	Edwards, Dovonte (CB)	6-0	182	4	North Carolina State	5/0	FA 07	CFA MINN 05	Saw some time last season because of injuries; faces stiff competition.
21	Fisher, Travis (CB)	5-10	189	7	UCF	16/13	UFA,STL 07	D2 STL 02	Penciled in as starting nickel back and adds depth and experience at corner.
35	*Hicks, LaMarcus (CB)	6-0	189	2	Iowa State	5/0	FA 08	CFA DET 06	Faces uphill climb to make the team at safety; must excel on special teams.
25	**Kelly, Brian (CB)**	**5-11**	**193**	**11**	**Southern Cal**	**11/4**	**UFA,TB 08**	**D2 TB 98**	**Veteran corner comes from Tampa Bay with knowledge of Tampa Two.**
32	Pearson, Kalvin (S)	5-10	200	4	Grambling	16/1	RFA,TB 08	CFA CLV 02	Expected to lead special teams and compete at safety and nickel back.
38	Robinson, Ramzee (CB)	5-10	186	2	Alabama	6/0	FA 07	D7 DET 07	Mr. Irrelevant wasn't irrelevant last season; saw action because of injuries.
26	**Smith, Dwight (S)**	**5-10**	**201**	**8**	**Akron**	**14/13**	**FA 08**	**D3 TB 01**	**Detroit native returns home; another Tampa Bay vet who knows system.**
23	Smith, Keith (CB)	5-11	191	5	McNeese State	15/1	D3 04	D3 DET 04	Lions still see potential, but Smith faces tougher competition for playing time.
31	*Wilson, Stanley (CB)	5-11	189	4	Stanford	10/5	D3 05	D3 DET 05	Like Keith Smith, Lions still see potential, but must start producing on field.
SPECIALISTS									
3	Ernster, Paul (P/K)	6-0	212	3	Northern Arizona	2/0	FA 08	D7 DEN 05	Leg likely will give a break to Hanson and Harris during camp and preseason.
4	Hanson, Jason (K)	6-0	190	17	Washington State	16/0	D2 92	D2 DET 92	Still consistent in 17th Detroit season, but missed critical kick last year vs. Dallas.
2	Harris, Nick (P)	6-2	218	7	California	16/0	FA 03	D4 DEN 01	Coming off another excellent season and has Pro Bowl potential.
48	Muhlbach, Don (LS)	6-4	265	5	Texas A&M	16/0	FA 04	CFA BLT 04	Lions coaches consider him one of the best in the business.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Reggie Ball (1, Georgia Tech), Ron Bellamy (1, Michigan), John Standeford (1, Purdue); WR/KR Darrell Blackman (North Carolina State); TE Clark Harris (1, Rutgers); OT Chris Patrick (1, Nebraska); OG Carroll Madison (Syracuse); RB Allen Ervin (Lambuth); DEs Victor DeGrate (1, Oklahoma State), Rudolph Hardie (Howard), Claude Harriott (1, Pittsburgh); LB Tyronne Pruitt (Boston College); CB Israel Route (1, Tulane); S Bobbie Williams (Bethune-Cookman); DB Pacino Horne (Central Michigan).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Will Jon Kitna keep his job as the starting quarterback? Kitna returns as the starter, but Drew Stanton, a second-round pick last year who quickly went on injured reserve with a knee injury, is expected to push him at some point. Dan Orlovsky is in the mix as well.
2. How much better will the defense be? The Lions ranked last in average yards and points allowed last season. They couldn't get off the field. The Lions overhauled the secondary, but did they add enough to the front seven, especially after trading Shaun Rogers?
3. Will the Lions ever have a winning season under Matt Millen? The Lions have had seven straight losing seasons since Millen became team president in 2001. But owner William Clay Ford seems content to keep Millen in charge. It doesn't seem like Millen's job is on the line.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jim Colletto

The great irony of the Lions' offseason is that Mike Martz's departure has replaced his offense as the main reason for hope. Now it's up to Jim Colletto, who has never been an offensive coordinator in the NFL before.

Colletto is no Martz, nor does he want to be. He made that clear at his first news conference, saying, "It's not rocket science" and "You don't have to be a genius to figure these things out." Asked about his philosophy, he talked about a "balanced attack."

The Lions have kept some of the playbook and terminology intact. But they have made sweeping changes in philosophy and structure. Their goal is a more simple, straightforward offense. They hope that will help support the defense and keep them competitive on the road.

"I want to make sure that we run a real balanced style of football," Colletto said. "Make the defense have to play both run and pass. You have play-action passes off your best runs. You don't have to be real fancy. You just have to be a good execution team. ...

"Don't fool the troops. I'd use different terminology if this wasn't in public, but the players are the key. It's not the coach. It's the player."

One of the big stories in camp will be whether Army's Caleb Campbell makes the team. Campbell is starting out as a strong-side linebacker, but could switch to safety.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The Lions allowed opponents to complete 70.1 percent of their passes last season. That was by far the worst mark in the NFL. So they were aggressive in addressing the secondary in the off-season.

They added cornerbacks Leigh Bodden and Brian Kelly, plus safeties Dwight Smith and Kalvin Pearson, turning a weakness into perhaps a strength. Bodden intercepted six passes last season. Kelly, Smith and Pearson all have played in Tampa Bay and know the system.

Safeties Daniel Bullocks and Gerald Alexander, second-round picks in 2006 and '07, still have a lot of potential. Bullocks returns after missing last season with a knee injury, which made Alexander a starter as a rookie.

The Lions also still have hope for cornerbacks Keith Smith and Stanley Wilson, third-round picks in 2004 and '05.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jason Hanson keeps on kicking consistently into his 17th season in Detroit, though he missed a critical field-goal attempt last season against Dallas. Punter Nick Harris and long snapper Don Muhlbach are excellent.

There should be competition for the return jobs. The Lions drafted wide receiver Kenneth Moore in the fifth round as a returner. Calhoun, McDonald, Furrey and Devale Ellis should also be in the mix.

The Lions hope their additions on defense will improve special teams. Pearson is expected to be a leader.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

The environment in Detroit is one of the worst in the NFL. The fans and media have seen the Lions lose for so long that they think the team can do nothing right and pounce on everything negatively.

Marinelli is all about mental toughness, and he has been trying to change the culture. But it has been difficult, and no matter how well the Lions start this season, no one will believe in them. The Lions started 6-2 last season, but finished 1-7.

People have criticized Marinelli for bringing in two coaches and seven players who were with his former team, Tampa Bay. But it isn't just because he is comfortable with them and they know the system. He thinks they can reinforce his message and create a winning environment.

RATING: Minus 2

—Nicholas Cotsonika

2007 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 9	at Oakland	36-21
Sep. 16	MINNESOTA (OT)	20-17
Sep. 23	at Philadelphia	21-56
Sep. 30	CHICAGO	37-27
Oct. 7	at Washington	3-34
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	TAMPA BAY	23-16
Oct. 28	at Chicago	16- 7
Nov. 4	DENVER	44- 7
Nov. 11	at Arizona	21-31
Nov. 18	N.Y. GIANTS	10-16
Nov. 22	GREEN BAY (Thu.)	26-37
Dec. 2	at Minnesota	10-42
Dec. 9	DALLAS	27-28
Dec. 16	at San Diego	14-51
Dec. 23	KANSAS CITY	25-20
Dec. 30	at Green Bay	13-34

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	N.Y. GIANTS (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 17	at Cincinnati	7:35
Aug. 23	CLEVELAND (Sat.)	4:00
Aug. 28	at Buffalo (Thu.)	6:30
Sep. 7	at Atlanta	1:00
Sep. 14	GREEN BAY	1:00
Sep. 21	at San Francisco	1:05
Sep. 28	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 5	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct. 12	at Minnesota	12:00
Oct. 19	at Houston	3:05
Oct. 26	WASHINGTON	1:00
Nov. 2	at Chicago	12:00
Nov. 9	JACKSONVILLE	1:00
Nov. 16	at Carolina	1:00
Nov. 23	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Nov. 27	TENNESSEE (Thu.)	12:30
Dec. 7	MINNESOTA	1:00
Dec. 14	at Indianapolis	1:00
Dec. 21	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 28	at Green Bay	12:00

GREEN BAY PACKERS

2007 RECORD: 14-4 | **STADIUM: Lambeau Field, 72,928, Grass Master** | **PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd**

NFC NORTH

www.packers.com

AT A GLANCE

1265 Lombardi Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54304
(920) 569-7500

TRAINING CAMP:
St. Norbert College; De Pere, WI

COACH:
Mike McCarthy, 3rd year with Packers and as NFL head coach (22-12)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Ted Thompson

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE:
Russ Ball

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
John Dorsey

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Reggie McKenzie

PERSONNEL ANALYST TO GM:
John Schneider

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Joe Philbin	Offensive coordinator	6	6
Tom Clements	Quarterbacks	12	3
James Campen	Offensive line	5	5
Jerry Fontenot	Assistant line	3	3
Edgar Bennett	Running backs	8	8
Jimmy Robinson	Receivers	19	3
Ben McAdoo	Tight ends	5	3
Ty Knott	Off. quality control	7	3
Bob Sanders	Defensive coordinator	8	4
Winston Moss	Asst. head coach/defense	10	3
Carl Hairston	Defensive ends	14	3
Robert Nunn	Defensive tackles	9	4
Kurt Schottenheimer	Secondary	22	4
Lionel Washington	Cornerbacks/nickel	10	10
Joe Whitt Jr.	Def. quality control	2	1
Mike Stock	Special teams coord.	18	3
Shawn Slocum	Special teams asst.	3	3
Rock Gullickson	Strength & Cond.	9	3
Mark Lovat	Strength & Cond.	10	10
Mondray Gee	Strength & Cond.	1	1

Sundays Won't Be the Same Without Favre

The new era begins.

After 16 years of watching Brett Favre line up at quarterback week-in and week-out, always giving them a chance to win and almost always making them a playoff and possible Super Bowl contender, the Green Bay Packers will look, feel and be different in 2008.

Basically, everyone of any importance is back from the 2007 team that was one of the surprises of the NFL in finishing 13-3 and advancing to the NFC Championship Game. Except for one person, and that one person was a sure-fire first-ballot Hall of Famer at the game's most important position.

But now it's time for Aaron Rodgers to take over after a valuable three-year apprenticeship. The Packers, who had the youngest team in the NFL last season, have a much more talented roster, top-to-bottom, than when general manager Ted Thompson took over in January 2005. Yet, much of the Packers' fate in 2008 depends on Rodgers' play four years after Thompson drafted him No. 24 overall in 2005.

"I think he's a really good player," Thompson said, "and I don't say that to defend myself. I've picked bad players before and have been fairly upfront about it. This guy's going to be a good player; I'm convinced of it.

"After I'd get back from a scouting trip (last) year I'd go out there (to practice) every Friday and watch and think, 'Lord, I'm glad we've got him.' But we'll see. The proof's in the pudding."

COACHING

If Mike McCarthy was a surprise hiring when Thompson tabbed him to coach the Packers in 2006, he's shown he deserved the shot and brings several strengths to the job. Among other things, he's willing to play his youngest players with room to improve quickly. He also confronts problems before they fester and seems to get along well with players while also maintaining authority. He runs fast-paced practices and has some novel ideas about off-season conditioning and training-camp scheduling — work harder in the spring, scale back a little in camp — that appeared to help keep the team healthy last season.

His coaching staff lacks big names, but teaches well. Offensive coordinator Joe Philbin was sound in his first season in that role. Defensive coordinator Bob Sanders made a noticeable improvement in his second season, though the defense still might have underachieved ever so slightly in '07.

RATING: B

QUARTERBACKS

Rodgers replaces the NFL's all-time winning and all-time ironman quarterback. Good luck with that. Also, the Packers probably will have the most inexperienced corps of quarterbacks in the NFL. Rodgers has played in five NFL games, and only one of those was not mop-up duty of a

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
Brian Brohm

The No. 56 pick overall in this year's draft probably will be the Packers' backup quarterback. Considering Aaron Rodgers' injury history in limited playing time, the rookie might be starting some games this season.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Brandon Chillar

KEY LOSS:
Brett Favre (16/16)*
How do you replace a future Hall of Famer at the critical quarterback position? At least general manager Ted Thompson planned for it by drafting Rodgers in the first round in 2005.

OTHER LOSSES
LS Rob Davis (16/0), TE Bubba Franks (8/1), TE Ryan Krause (9/0), QB Craig Nall (1/0), OG Tony Palmer (2/0), CB Frank Walker (12/0), T/G Tyson Walter (0/0), DT Corey Williams (16/9)

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 9 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

blowout. That came last season at Dallas, when he gave the Packers hope for his future when he performed well and kept them in the fight after replacing the injured Favre early in the second quarter of a 37-27 loss. He completed 18 of 26 passes for 201 yards, had one touchdown and no interceptions, and showed the ability to scramble and make plays on the move. Still, how will he do when teams game plan for him? And will he stay healthy after sustaining significant injuries (broken foot in 2006, hamstring in '07) the last two years?

Behind him, barring a poor training camp, will be rookie Brian Brohm, the second-round pick from Louisville. And there's a decent chance the No. 3 quarterback will be fellow rookie Matt Flynn, a seventh-round pick from Louisiana State. Rodgers is sure to have the first-year starter's ups and downs. It's just a matter of to what degree.

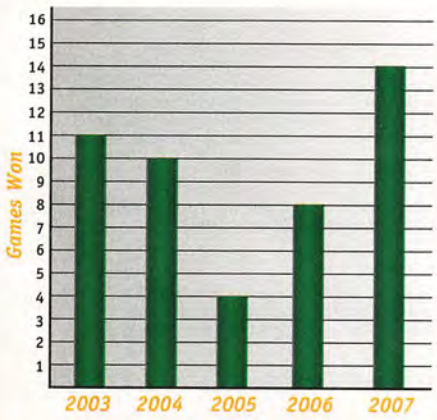
RATING: 5.5

RUNNING BACKS

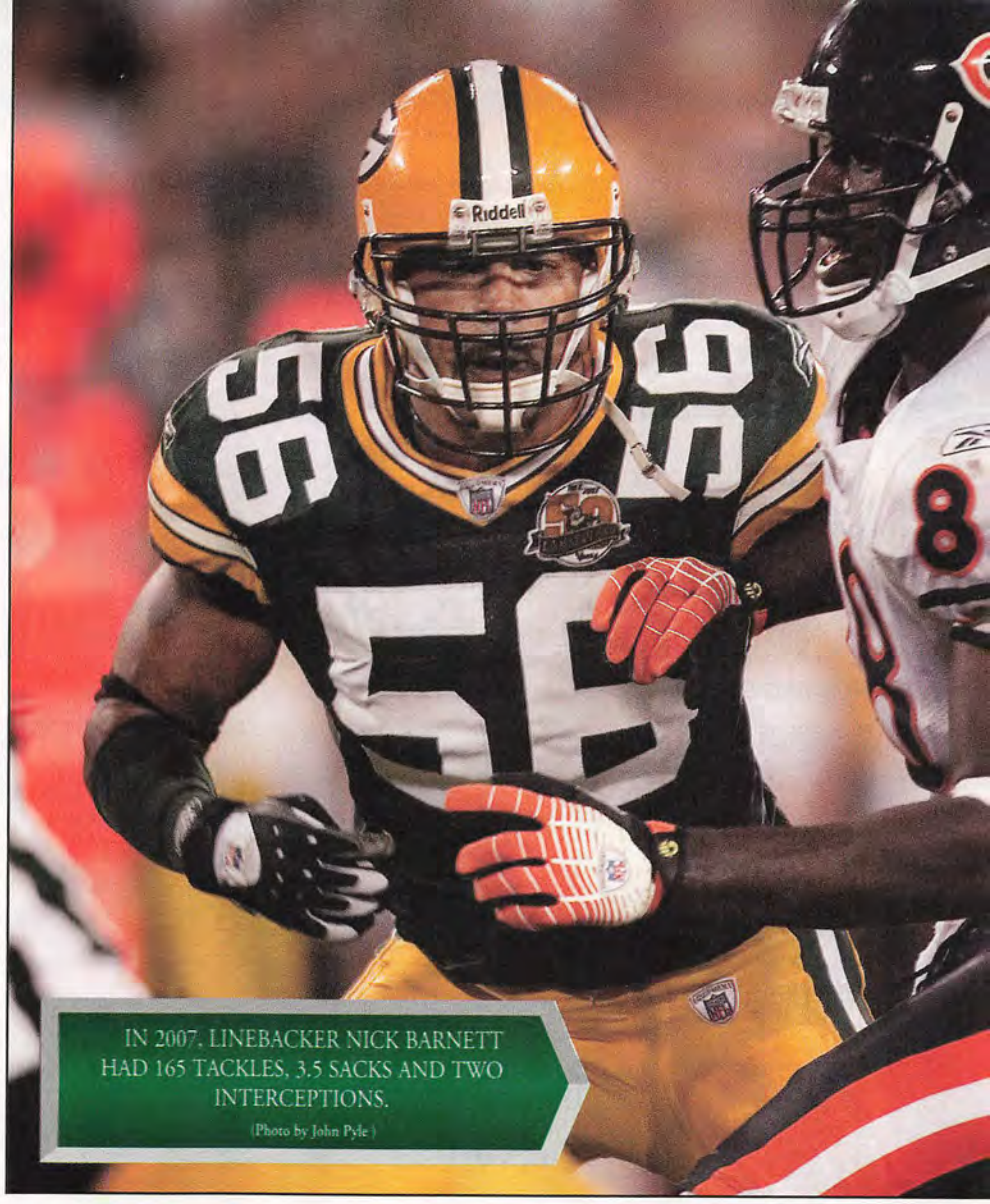
Thompson made a trade for the ages last year when he sent a sixth-round draft pick to the Giants for Ryan Grant. Though it took until the seventh game for Grant to get his shot, he single-handedly gave life to the Packers' struggling running game, and through the final nine games rushed for 929 yards. He's a tough, physical runner, but also has enough speed to break a long run — he had touchdown runs of 62 and 67 yards. As long as he's healthy, the Packers will be able to run well enough against most teams. However, there are major questions about the quality of depth behind him. Brandon Jackson was a disappointment (3.6 yards a carry) as a second-round pick last year. Second-year pro DeShawn Wynn has talent (4.1 yards a carry), but is an injury waiting to happen, and fourth-year pro Vernand Morency had chronic problems with his patellar tendon last year.

RATING: 7

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2007*



RECEIVERS

This is their best and deepest position. Third-year pro Greg Jennings should supplant Donald Driver as the No. 1 receiver because of his big-play talent (12 touchdowns, 17.4-yard average per catch last year), though Driver, even at age 33, retains the quickness and spring in his legs to be effective. James Jones, a third-round pick, hit the rookie wall last year, but still showed excellent hands and strength as the No. 3 receiver (47 receptions). Thompson made a surprise move and after trading back from No. 30 overall to No. 36 in this year's draft, selected a receiver, Jordy Nelson of Kansas State. Nelson is a big body (6-3 and 217 pounds), and the Packers' scouts rated him highly for his ability to catch in a crowd and run after the catch. Donald Lee made Bubba Franks expendable at tight end, and third-round pick Jermichael Finley of Texas could be his backup.

RATING: 8

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

One of the problems last season was at guard, where second-year pro Daryn Colledge failed to improve much from his rookie season on the left side, and fellow second-year pro Jason Spitz was only OK on the other side. The line pass-protected well, though Favre's ability to read blitzes and get rid of the ball quickly helped immensely. But the run blocking was average at best, and McCarthy is counting on competition and improvement from within to improve it. Colledge will face a big challenge from second-year pro Allen Barbre, a fourth-round pick last year with an extremely bright future. Third-year pro Junius Coston also will be in the running for a starting job, and the Packers are convinced that two solid players will emerge from that group. Left tackle Chad Clifton has chronic knee problems at age 32, but appears to have another good year or two left in him. Mark Tauscher is rock solid right tackle, though the depth behind them is shaky.

RATING: 7.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Packers look solid here, though much depends on the recovery of third-year pro Johnny Jolly from shoulder surgery last year, and whether

Packers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
19	Bodiford, Shaun	5-11	194	3	Portland State	6/0	FA 07	CFA DET 06	Drafting of Jordy Nelson puts Bodiford in uphill battle to make roster.
80	**Driver, Donald**	**6-0**	**190**	**10**	**Alcorn State**	**15/14**	**D7 99**	**D7 GB 99**	**Ninth-year pro looking for fifth 70-plus catch season in last six years.**
88	Finley, Jermichael (TE)	6-5	245	R	Texas	0/0	D3 08	D3 GB 08	Third-round pick is a good athlete with a promising future at a roster-thin position.
83	Francies, Chris	6-1	193	2	Texas-El Paso	1/0	FA 08	CFA GB 06	Practice-squad holdover a long-shot to make receiver-deep team.
84	*Humphrey, Tory (TE)	6-2	250	3	Central Michigan	0/0	FA 05	CFA GB 05	Team loves receiving and blocking talent, but he's been injury prone.
85	**Jennings, Greg**	**5-11**	**197**	**3**	**Western Michigan**	**13/13**	**D2 06**	**D2 GB 06**	**Looks like the offense's best playmaker going into '08.**
89	Jones, James	6-1	212	2	San Jose State	16/9	D3 07	D3 GB 07	Has bright future, but faces competition from Nelson for No. 3 receiver spot.
86	**Lee, Donald (TE)**	**6-4**	**248**	**6**	**Mississippi State**	**15/12**	**FA 05**	**D5 MIA 03**	**Solid receiver and OK blocker as a starter last season.**
82	Martin, Ruvell	6-4	215	3	Saginaw Valley State	15/5	FA 06	CFA SD 04	Former undrafted rookie could make team as No. 5 or 6 receiver.
87	Nelson, Jordy	6-3	217	R	Kansas State	0/0	D2 08	D2 GB 08	Second-round pick brings combination of size and speed receiver corps lacked.
81	Robinson, Koren	6-2	205	7	North Carolina State	9/1	FA 06	D1 SEA 01	Feel-good story of '07 will be in fight to get on the field this year.
16	Swain, Brett	6-0	194	R	San Diego State	0/0	D7 08	D7 GB 08	Seventh-round pick probably a practice-squad candidate.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
78	Barbre, Allen (G)	6-4	300	2	Missouri Southern	7/0	D4 07	D4 GB 07	Second-year pro might be line's best athlete and could start at left guard.
76	**Clifton, Chad (T)**	**6-5**	**320**	**9**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D2 00**	**D2 GB 00**	**Still a premier pass blocker though injuries are beginning to take toll.**
73	**Colledge, Daryn (G)**	**6-4**	**305**	**3**	**Boise State**	**16/13**	**D2 06**	**D2 GB 06**	**Needs to make offseason strides to beat out Barbre and hold starting job.**
62	*Coston, Junius (G/T)	6-3	313	4	North Carolina A&T	13/7	D5 05	D5 GB 05	Will be in battle to start at right guard and be a backup across entire line.
68	Giacomini, Breno (T)	6-7	303	R	Louisville	0/0	D5 08	D5 GB 08	Raw rookie is developmental prospect at both tackle spots.
75	Moll, Tony (T/G)	6-5	304	3	Nevada	9/3	D5 06	D5 GB 06	Second-year pro could be right tackle of the future behind Mark Tauscher.
71	Sitton, Josh (G)	6-3	319	R	UCF	0/0	D4 08	D4 GB 08	Gritty fourth-round pick could be in battle for starting job at left guard.
72	**Spitz, Jason (G/C)**	**6-3**	**300**	**3**	**Louisville**	**14/12**	**D3 06**	**D3 GB 06**	**Good bet to retain starting job at right guard against Coston.**
67	Stephenson, Cameron (G)	6-3	320	1	Rutgers	0/0	FA 08	D5 PITT 07	A long shot to make final roster after two draft picks added.
65	**Tauscher, Mark (T)**	**6-3**	**315**	**9**	**Wisconsin**	**16/16**	**D7 00**	**D7 GB 00**	**Ninth-year pro remains stalwart pass blocker on right side.**
69	Thompson, Orrin (T)	6-6	322	1	Duke	0/0	FA 07	CFA MIA 05	After two years on practice squad faces tough battle to make team.
70	*Toledo, Joe (T)	6-5	325	3	Washington	0/0	FA 08	D4 MIA 06	Young tackle has talent, but is coming back from knee injury.
63	**Wells, Scott (C/G)**	**6-2**	**295**	**5**	**Tennessee**	**14/13**	**FA 04**	**D7 GB 04**	**Undersized center was most consistent lineman last year.**
RUNNING BACKS									
25	**Grant, Ryan**	**6-1**	**224**	**2**	**Notre Dame**	**15/7**	**T,NYG 07**	**CFA NYG 05**	**Key will be keeping him healthy after big half-season to finish '07.**
35	**Hall, Korey (FB)**	**6-0**	**236**	**2**	**Boise State**	**14/10**	**D6 07**	**D6 GB 07**	**Converted linebacker was decent as starter in '07 and looks to improve.**
23	*Herron, Noah	5-11	218	3	Northwestern	0/0	FA 05	D7 PITT 05	Fourth-year pro has limitations and is in big fight for roster spot.
32	Jackson, Brandon	5-10	212	2	Nebraska	11/3	D2 07	D2 GB 07	Needs to be more patient and show more explosiveness than as rookie.
30	Kuhn, John (FB)	6-0	250	3	Shippensburg	16/1	W,PITT 07	CFA PITT 05	At 250 pounds has size to be punishing inside blocker as backup to Hall.
34	Morency, Vernand	5-10	217	3	Oklahoma State	13/0	T,HOU 06	D3 HOUS 05	His chances of making the team as No. 3 back depend on health of knee.
39	*Powdrell, Ryan (FB)	5-11	254	2	Southern Cal	0/0	CFA 07	CFA GB 07	After spending last season on IR, will battle Kuhn for backup job.
42	*Wynn, DeShawn	5-10	232	2	Florida	7/4	D7 07	D7 GB 07	Has to overcome reputation for poor work ethic and injury intolerance.
QUARTERBACKS									
11	Brohm, Brian	6-3	232	R	Louisville	0/0	D2 08	D2 GB 08	Promising rookie will back up Rodgers unless he struggles terribly in camp.
10	Flynn, Matt	6-2	231	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D7 08	D7 GB 08	Lacks arm strength, but Packers like the leadership and fight in the national-champion QB.
12	**Rodgers, Aaron**	**6-2**	**223**	**4**	**California**	**2/0**	**D1 05**	**D1 GB 05**	**Has full backing of coach Mike McCarthy and GM Ted Thompson.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Bolston, Conrad (T)	6-3	300	1	Maryland	1/0	W,MINN 07	CFA MINN 07	Will have hard time making roster at an especially deep position.
90	*Cole, Colin (T)	6-1	320	4	Iowa	7/0	FA 04	CFA MINN 03	Solid backup is stout in the run game and gives depth in middle of the line.
94	Gbaja-Biamila, Kabeer (E)	6-4	247	9	San Diego State	15/2	FA 00	D5 GB 00	Was more effective last year when role reduced to part-time pass rusher.
91	Harrell, Justin (T)	6-4	318	2	Tennessee	7/2	D1 07	D1 GB 07	Must make an impact now that he's fully recovered from biceps injury in college.
57	Hunter, Jason (E/OLB)	6-4	260	3	Appalachian State	16/0	CFA 06	CFA GB 06	Led team with 25 special-teams tackles last year, but still raw as pass rusher.
77	**Jenkins, Cullen (E)**	**6-2**	**303**	**5**	**Central Michigan**	**16/15**	**FA 04**	**CFA GB 03**	**Shoulder, knee and ankle injuries hurt his production last season.**
97	***Jolly, Johnny (T)**	**6-3**	**318**	**3**	**Texas A&M**	**10/7**	**D6 06**	**D6 GB 06**	**Was blossoming before rotator-cuff injury ended his '07 season in November.**
74	**Kampman, Aaron (E)**	**6-4**	**265**	**7**	**Iowa**	**15/15**	**D5 02**	**D5 GB 02**	**Has emerged as one of the NFL's most complete defensive ends.**
98	Malone, Alfred (T)	6-4	305	2	Troy	0/0	FA 08	CFA HOUS 05	Is another long shot to make final roster.
96	Montgomery, Michael (E)	6-5	270	4	Texas A&M	9/0	D6 05	D6 GB 05	Could lose job at No. 3 end to Jeremy Thompson after non-descript '07.
95	Muir, Daniel (T)	6-2	312	2	Kent State	3/0	CFA 07	CFA GB 07	One of the surprises of camp in '07 when he made team as undrafted rookie.
79	**Pickett, Ryan (NT)**	**6-2**	**330**	**8**	**Ohio State**	**14/14**	**UFA,STL 06**	**D1 STL 01**	**Eighth-year pro is defense's unsung hero as line's best run-stopper.**
99	Thompson, Jeremy (E)	6-4	264	R	Wake Forest	0/0	D4 08	D4 GB 08	GM Ted Thompson traded up for the first time in his four drafts in Green Bay to land pass rusher.
LINEBACKERS									
56	**Barnett, Nick (M)**	**6-2**	**232**	**6**	**Oregon State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 GB 03**	**Now on the radar as possible Pro Bowler at middle linebacker.**
55	Bishop, Desmond (M)	6-2	235	2	California	10/0	D6 07	D6 GB 07	Second-year pro is frontrunner to back up Barnett and play special teams.
54	**Chillar, Brandon (O)**	**6-3**	**242**	**5**	**UCLA**	**15/15**	**UFA,STL 08**	**D4 STL 04**	**Packers think they got a bargain with their only signing in free agency.**
50	**Hawk, A.J. (O)**	**6-1**	**247**	**3**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 GB 06**	**Defensive staff needs to find ways to get him in position to make big plays.**
52	*Hodge, Abdul (M)	6-0	229	3	Iowa	0/0	D3 06	D3 GB 06	Former third-round pick returning from patella injuries in both knees.
51	Poppinga, Brady (O)	6-3	245	4	Brigham Young	16/15	D4 05	D4 GB 05	Could lose starting job to Chillar, but can rush passer in part-time role.
59	White, Tracy (O)	6-0	234	6	Howard	13/0	FA 06	CFA SEA 03	Special-teams core player will be tough to knock off roster.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	**Bigby, Atari (S)**	**5-11**	**211**	**3**	**UCF**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**CFA MIA 05**	**Came on near the end of '07 in first year as an NFL starter.**
27	Blackmon, Will (CB)	6-0	202	3	Boston College	9/1	D4 06	D4 GB 06	Intrigues as returner and corner, but hasn't been healthy first two years in NFL.
24	Bush, Jarrett (CB)	6-0	197	3	Utah State	14/1	W,CARO 06	CFA CARO 06	Will battle for nickel cornerback job, but probably is a long-shot to win it.
36	**Collins, Nick (S)**	**5-11**	**200**	**4**	**Bethune-Cookman**	**13/13**	**D2 05**	**D2 GB 05**	**Wasn't big playmaker Packers expected in third year as starter in '07.**
29	*Culver, Tyrone (S)	6-1	200	3	Fresno State	0/0	D6 06	D6 GB 06	Will have tough time in competition after missing all of 2007 with injury.
31	**Harris, Al (CB)**	**6-1**	**188**	**11**	**Texas A&M-Kingsville**	**16/16**	**T,PHA 03**	**D6 TB 97**	**Went to first Pro Bowl last year, but at 33, age is catching up with him.**
22	Lee, Patrick (CB)	6-0	200	R	Auburn	0/0	D2 08	D2 GB 08	Packers spent second-round pick to bolster nickel job; future at cornerback.
26	Peprah, Charlie (S)	5-11	202	3	Alabama	16/0	W,NYG 06	D5 NYG 06	Good bet to make roster as fourth and final safety.
37	Rouse, Aaron (S)	6-4	223	2	Virginia Tech	11/3	D3 07	D3 GB 07	Should give Bigby, Collins strong run for starting job at safety.
38	Williams, Tramon (CB)	5-11	185	2	Louisiana Tech	16/1	FA 07	CFA HOUS 06	Mentally tough second-year pro held nickel job for part of last season.
21	**Woodson, Charles (CB)**	**6-1**	**200**	**11**	**Michigan**	**14/14**	**UFA,OAK 06**	**D1 OAK 98**	**Probably had better season than Pro Bowler Harris last year.**
SPECIALISTS									
2	Crosby, Mason (K)	6-1	212	2	Colorado	16/0	D6 07	D6 GB 07	Sixth-round pick has even-keeled temperament for quirky NFL job.
46	Jansen, J.J. (LS)	6-2	254	R	Notre Dame	0/0	CFA 08	CFA GB 08	Packers rated undrafted rookie best long snapper in senior class.
9	Ryan, Jon (P)	6-0	202	3	Regina (Canada)	16/0	FA 06	FA GB 06	Needs to keep improving hang time to be consistently effective NFL punter.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.
Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jake Allen (Mississippi College), Rod Harper (Murray State), Johnny Quinn (1, North Texas), Taj Smith (Syracuse); TEs Joey Haynos (Maryland), Mike Peterson (Northwest Missouri State); OT Ryan Considine (Louisiana Tech); OG Ryan Keenan (1, Northwestern); C Brennen Carvalho (Portland State); RBs Kregg Lumpkin (Georgia), Corey White (1, UAB); LBs Spencer Havner (1, UCLA), Danny Lansanah (Connecticut), Marcus Riley (Fresno State); CBs Joe Porter (1, Rutgers), Condrew Allen (Portland State), Kyle Ward (Louisiana-Lafayette); LS Thomas Gafford (1, Houston); P Ken DeBauche (Wisconsin).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Packers think second-year pro Allen Barbre is a great prospect at left guard, so his battle with Daryn Colledge for that starting job will be a highlight of training camp.
2. Cornerback Al Harris struggled last year against Dallas' Terrell Owens and the Giants' Plaxico Burruss in the NFC Championship Game. Is he going to hit the wall at age 33, or can he have one more solid season at one of the game's most difficult positions?
3. Defensive tackle Justin Harrell did next to nothing last year as the No. 16 draft pick overall. Now he's healthy and had a full off-season in the Packers' offseason training program. There are no more excuses; it's time to produce.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Aaron Rodgers

Aaron Rodgers has one of the most difficult jobs in sports.

He's replacing a legend in Brett Favre, who not only is the winningest and most durable quarterback in the history of the game, but also was one of the most beloved sports figures in the country.

Rodgers at least is as well prepared for the job as he could hope. He's had three years to learn the Packers' offense, NFL defenses, and the speed of the game at its highest level. He was in no way ready to start early in his career. Also, he has young talent around him.

Rodgers also is likely to be the anti-Favre in style. Where Favre was a gunslinger, Rodgers will rely on managing games and making safer plays. He's sure to have the ups-and-downs of a first-year starter. The question is, to what degree?

"He's going to have to play within himself and do what he can do and help that team win," said Steve Mariucci, former Packers assistant and 49ers and Lions head coach. "He'll be ready to go. At times, he'll surprise people with how well he plays, and at times, he'll remind us how young he really is."

2007 first-round pick Justin Harrell makes a major jump after a bland rookie year. The Packers put the franchise tag on their best inside rusher, Corey Williams, and then traded him for a second-round pick instead of signing him to a long-term contract. Jolly is the better player, provided he recovers well. End Aaron Kampman had another excellent season in '07 even though his sack numbers dropped from 15.5 to 12. The Packers expect Cullen Jenkins to be much better than last season (49 tackles, one sack) at right defensive end. Also, fourth-round pick Jeremy Thompson of Wake Forest could push Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila for playing time as a backup right end and pass-rush specialist.

RATING: 7.5

LINEBACKERS

With Nick Barnett and A.J. Hawk, the Packers have one of the strongest linebacking duos in the league. Barnett is near Pro Bowl level now, and Hawk could be if he starts making some game-changing plays. Thompson's only free-agent signing was St. Louis' Brandon Chillar, who is a good bet to beat out Brady Poppinga at strong-side linebacker. Poppinga is improving, so either way the Packers have more quality depth than last year.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

Cornerbacks Al Harris (33) and Charles Woodson (31) are keys to Sanders' scheme because of their ability to play bump-and-run coverage. Age could show on Harris this year, though he probably has one more season in him as a solid starter. The Packers need better play at No. 3 cornerback and safety. They drafted Patrick Lee out of Auburn in the second round to compete with injury-prone Will Blackmon and plucky second-year pro Tramon Williams for the nickel cornerback job. Second-year pro Aaron Rouse will challenge Nick Collins and Atari Bigby for a starting safety spot.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mason Crosby (31 of 39) looks like the long-term answer at kicker. Jon Ryan (37.6-yard net) has competition from rookie Ken DeBauche, but likely will be back for his third season as punter. Blackmon has shown talent as a punt and kickoff returner, but only if he can stay healthy. The rookie Nelson also will get a shot there. Long snapper Rob Davis retired, and the competition will be between Thomas Gafford and rookie J.J. Jansen.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

Favre is gone, taking with him all his toughness, experience, leadership and will to win that was a major part of this team's personality the past 16 years. That's irreplaceable.

RATING: Minus 2

— Pete Dougherty

2007 RESULTS

Record: 14-4

Sep. 9	PHILADELPHIA	16-13
Sep. 16	at N.Y. Giants	35-13
Sep. 23	SAN DIEGO	31-24
Sep. 30	at Minnesota	23-16
Oct. 7	CHICAGO	20-27
Oct. 14	WASHINGTON	17-14
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	at Denver (Mon.) (OT)	19-13
Nov. 4	at Kansas City	33-22
Nov. 11	MINNESOTA	34- 0
Nov. 18	CAROLINA	31-17
Nov. 22	at Detroit (Thu.)	37-26
Nov. 29	at Dallas (Thu.)	27-37
Dec. 9	OAKLAND	38- 7
Dec. 16	at St. Louis	33-14
Dec. 23	at Chicago	7-35
Dec. 30	DETROIT	34-13
Jan. 12	SEATTLE (Sat.)	42-20
Jan. 20	N.Y. GIANTS (OT)	20-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	CINCINNATI (Mon.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at San Francisco (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 22	at Denver (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 28	TENNESSEE (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 8	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	6:00
Sep. 14	at Detroit	1:00
Sep. 21	DALLAS	7:15
Sep. 28	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Oct. 5	ATLANTA	12:00
Oct. 12	at Seattle	1:15
Oct. 19	INDIANAPOLIS	3:15
Oct. 26	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 2	at Tennessee	12:00
Nov. 9	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 16	CHICAGO	12:00
Nov. 24	at New Orleans (Mon.)	7:30
Nov. 30	CAROLINA	12:00
Dec. 7	HOUSTON	12:00
Dec. 14	at Jacksonville	1:00
Dec. 22	at Chicago (Mon.)	7:30
Dec. 28	DETROIT	12:00

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

2007 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: Hubert H. Humphrey, 64,121, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC NORTH | www.vikings.com

AT A GLANCE

9520 Viking Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
(952) 828-6500

TRAINING CAMP:
Minnesota State University-Mankato

COACH:
Brad Childress, 3rd year with Vikings and as NFL head coach (14-18)

VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Rob Brzezinski

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
George Paton

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Rick Spielman

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Scott Studwell

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Darrell Bevell	Offensive coordinator	8	2
Kevin Rogers	Quarterbacks	2	2
Pat Morris	Offensive line	11	2
Jim Hueber	Asst. offensive line	2	2
George Stewart	Receivers	20	1
Eric Bieniemy	Running backs	2	2
Jimmie Johnson	Tight ends	2	2
Ryan Ficken	Off. quality control/RB	1	1
Chad O'Shea	Offensive assistant/WR	4	2
Leslie Frazier	*Defensive coordinator	8	1
Karl Dunbar	Defensive line	3	2
Brendan Daly	Asst. line/def. asst.	2	2
Fred Pagac	Linebackers	7	2
Joe Woods	Secondary	4	2
Derek Mason	Assistant Secondary	1	1
Jeff Imamura	Def. quality control/LB	2	2
Paul Ferraro	Special teams coord.	3	2
Brian Murphy	Special teams asst.	2	2
Tom Kanavy	Strength & Cond.	13	2
Juney Barnett	Strength & Cond.	2	2
Martin Streight	Strength & Cond.	11	2

* Assistant head coach

Hope for Improvement Rides on Jackson's Arm

A year ago, it appeared Vikings vice president of player personnel Rick Spielman was going to attempt to build a roster through the draft with a few free agents added into the mix.

It appeared as if turning the Vikings into a contender might take some time. But somewhere along the way the decision was made that there is no time like the present. Thus, the Vikings have gone from a patience will pay approach to a win now mentality that will definitely put the pressure on third-year coach Brad Childress.

The Vikings served notice that they intended to be one of the league's more aggressive franchises early in free agency by signing receiver Bernard Berrian and safety Madieu Williams to multiyear contracts that contained a total of $29 million in guarantees.

It didn't end there. There were several more low-profile free-agent signings that led up to one of the NFL's biggest moves this off-season. That came days before the draft, when Minnesota sent its first-round pick, along with two third-rounders, to Kansas City for Pro Bowl defensive end Jared Allen.

The Vikings' suddenly suspect pass rush — one reason the team has finished at the bottom of the NFL against the pass the last two seasons — should now be more on par with a run defense that has been No. 1 in the league for two consecutive years.

With Pro Bowl running back Adrian Peterson leading the offense, the biggest question mark about this team will be quarterback Tarvaris Jackson and how much development he will show in his second season as a starter.

COACHING

Childress seemed far more relaxed and player-friendly in his second season at the helm.

The Vikings had gone 6-10 in Childress' first season and were 2-6 after an embarrassing 34-0 loss at Green Bay last November when Childress challenged his players by asking if they would have wanted their careers to end on that note. The Vikings responded by winning their next five games and were in the thick of the playoff picture before dropping their penultimate game against Washington.

While Childress seemed to make strides as a head coach, offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell got his chance to emerge from Childress' shadow and call many of the plays.

Leslie Frazier, in his first year as defensive coordinator, had very similar results to his predecessor, current Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin. Frazier will look like a far smarter coach with Allen on the defensive line.

RATING: 6.5

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
DE Jared Allen

It's been a long time since the Vikings have had a defensive end that can provide the type of pass rush that Allen promises to bring. Allen's presence should make the entire defense better.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
WR Bernard Berrian, S Michael Boulware, QB Gus Frerotte, RB Maurice Hicks, LB Derrick Pope, CB Benny Sapp, FB Thomas Tapeh, S Madieu Williams, DL Ellis Wyms

KEY LOSS:
FB Tony Richardson (14/3)*
Richardson was allowed to leave as a free agent after a Pro Bowl season in which he served as the lead blocker for Adrian Peterson and Chester Taylor. Just as important, Richardson was considered a locker-room leader.

OTHER LOSSES:
S Mike Doss (8/1), QB Kelly Holcomb (3/3), DT Spencer Johnson (16/0), RB Mewelde Moore (12/0), DE Darrion Scott (4/0), S Dwight Smith (14/13), LB Dontarrious Thomas (13/0), CB Ronyell Whitaker (11/0), S Tank Williams (13/2), WR Troy Williamson (11/8)

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

QUARTERBACKS

Childress frequently points to the fact Jackson posted an 8-4 record as a starter last season when defending his quarterback. However, Jackson also threw three more interceptions than touchdowns (12-9) and was picked off twice in the key late-season home loss to Washington.

Nonetheless, Childress has every intention of entering this season with Jackson as his starter.

The Vikings signed free agent Gus Frerotte to be the primary backup. John David Booty, a fifth-round choice, will compete with Brooks Bollinger for the No. 3 job.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

Peterson might have cooled down near the end of last season when he failed to rush for 100 yards in the final four games, but the seventh overall pick in the 2007 draft still established himself as a potential superstar.

The MVP of the Pro Bowl missed two games because of a knee injury, but will enter training camp completely healthy and thus extremely dangerous. Remember, before getting injured last year he rushed for more than 200 yards on two occasions and broke the NFL single-game mark by going for 296 against San Diego.

When Peterson does need a breather, veteran Chester Taylor gives the Vikings one of the NFL's best 1-2 punches. That combination helped Minnesota finish with the league's top running game in 2007.

RATING: 9

RECEIVERS

The Vikings appeared to take a major step in this area by signing Berrian from the Bears.

The one thing the Vikings consistently lacked last season was a vertical threat — speedster Troy Williamson never provided it and has been traded to Jacksonville — but Berrian's presence should change that. This means opposing defenses can't simply stack the box against the Vikings and ignore the pass.

Sidney Rice, entering his second year, led the Vikings with four touchdown receptions and also has big-play potential. The 6-4 Rice is excellent in jump-ball situations in the end zone.

Veteran Bobby Wade had a team-leading 54 catches and should primarily work out of the slot. Another veteran, Robert Ferguson, provides a steady influence and second-year speedster Aundrae Allison will challenge for playing time.

Visanthe Shiancoe, a free-agent addition in 2007, dropped three touchdown passes last season and proved to be a disappointment. Shiancoe must show better hands this time around.

RATING: 6.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Vikings have continuity along the line with all five starters returning from a unit that helped them average an NFL-best 164.6 yards per game on the ground in 2007.

Center Matt Birk and left guard Steve Hutchinson are coming off Pro Bowl seasons and are joined by left tackle Bryant McKinnie, right guard Anthony Herrera and right tackle Ryan Cook. Herrera provided a big boost in run blocking when he took over as a starter in the fifth game.

McKinnie might be the x-factor in this equation. He received a big contract extension in September 2006, but has not played up to expectations. He also found himself in legal trouble this off-season after getting involved in a brawl in Miami, Fla., and could face discipline from the NFL. It appeared almost certain the Vikings would take a tackle with one of their picks in this year's draft, but surprisingly that didn't happen. Depth could be an issue at that position.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

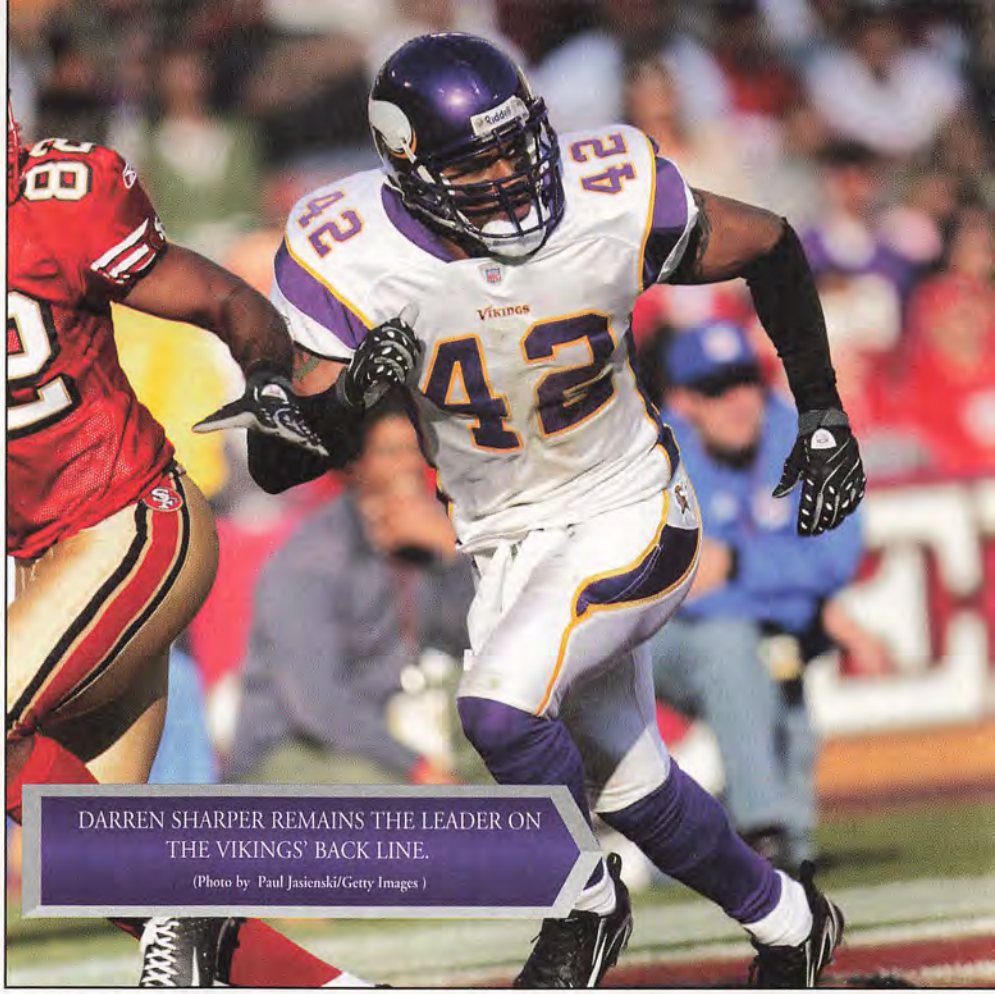
Tackles Kevin and Pat Williams already made it extremely difficult for teams to run against the Vikings. As a result, opponents frequently went to the air against Minnesota and often had success in part because the front four failed to consistently apply pressure.

That no longer should be the case with Allen playing right end. He led the NFL with 15.5 sacks last season and also had three forced fumbles in 14 games. His sack total was 10.5 more than the highest player on the Vikings.

Ray Edwards will move from the right side to the left. He will be taking the spot of Kenechi Udeze, who is expected to miss this season after being diagnosed with leukemia.

Brian Robison, a fourth-round pick in 2007, will be used as a situational pass rusher. Former first-rounder Erasmus James has battled knee problems for two seasons and will try to find his way into the mix.

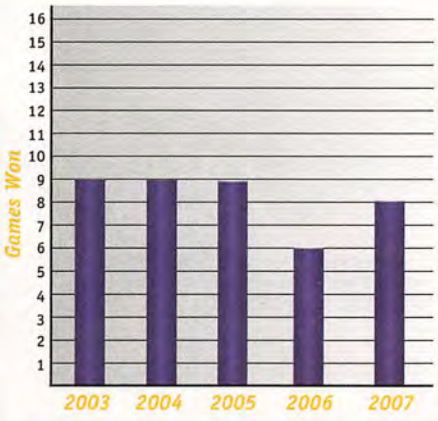
RATING: 9



DARREN SHARPER REMAINS THE LEADER ON THE VIKINGS' BACK LINE.

(Photo by Paul Jasienski/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2004*

Vikings Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
84	Allison, Aundrae	6-0	198	2	East Carolina	11/0	D5 07	D5 MINN 07	Will battle for playing time at receiver and on kick returns. Set team mark last season with three returns of 60-plus yards.
87	**Berrian, Bernard**	**6-1**	**185**	**5**	**Fresno State**	**16/15**	**UFA,CHI 08**	**D3 CHI 04**	**He should not only strengthen the team's receiving corps, but loss hurt NFC North rival Chicago.**
83	Dugan, Jeff (TE/FB)	6-4	258	5	Maryland	16/3	D7 04	D7 MINN 04	Not a pass-catching threat, but sticks with team because of ability to block both as tight end and in limited role at fullback.
89	Ferguson, Robert	6-1	219	8	Texas A&M	15/8	FA 07	D2 GB 01	Veteran was second on club with 32 receptions in 2007; also has value as an excellent downfield blocker.
11	Johnson, Jaymar	6-0	176	R	Jackson State	0/0	D6 08	D6 MINN 08	Vikings' final draft choice this year; sixth-rounder possesses big-time speed and has return ability, but he's raw.
47	*Jones, Braden (TE)	6-3	260	2	Southern Illinois	0/0	CFA 07	CFA MINN 07	Was on injured reserve all last season; doesn't figure to be able to crack the roster.
40	Kleinsasser, Jim (TE)	6-3	272	10	North Dakota	16/10	D2 99	D2 MINN 99	Had a career-low four receptions in 2007 and has only 11 catches the past two years. Still a top-notch blocker.
45	Mills, Garrett (TE)	6-1	235	3	Tulsa	1/0	W,NE 07	D4 NE 06	Showed good hands in catching two passes in the regular-season finale after being inactive for the first 15 games.
18	Rice, Sidney	6-4	202	2	South Carolina	13/4	D2 07	D2 MINN 07	Thirty-one receptions in 2007 was third-best on the team and bigger things will be expected this year.
81	**Shiancoe, Visanthe (TE)**	**6-4**	**250**	**6**	**Morgan State**	**16/15**	**UFA,NYG 07**	**D3 NYG 03**	**Failed to become the consistent pass-catching threat the Vikings were hoping to get.**
19	**Wade, Bobby**	**5-10**	**186**	**6**	**Arizona**	**16/12**	**UFA,TENN 07**	**D5 CHI 03**	**Led team with 54 catches and proved reliable.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
78	**Birk, Matt (C)**	**6-4**	**309**	**11**	**Harvard**	**16/16**	**D6 98**	**D6 MINN 98**	**Six-time Pro Bowl selection is entering the final season of his contract and could find himself elsewhere in 2009.**
62	**Cook, Ryan (T)**	**6-6**	**328**	**3**	**New Mexico**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 MINN 06**	**Proved to be steady performer in his first season as the full-time starter at right tackle.**
63	Daniels, Brian (G)	6-4	303	1	Colorado	0/0	FA 08	CFA MINN 07	Spent most of last season on practice squad; could have inside track for backup role.
64	**Herrera, Anthony (G)**	**6-2**	**315**	**5**	**Tennessee**	**16/12**	**FA 04**	**CFA MINN 04**	**Earned starting job in fifth game of season after showing coaches he was able to play under control.**
79	Hicks, Artis (G)	6-4	335	7	Memphis	14/4	T,PHA 06	CFA PHA 02	Forced into backup role after Herrera emerged; is the top reserve at both guard spots and also at left tackle.
76	**Hutchinson, Steve (G)**	**6-5**	**313**	**8**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**TFA,SEA 06**	**D1 SEA 01**	**Has shown the Vikings made a sound move by signing him to $49 million, seven-year deal in 2006.**
75	Johnson, Chase (T)	6-8	330	2	Wyoming	0/0	CFA 07	CFA MINN 07	Inactive for all but one game last season; his size has Vikings thinking he could turn into a player.
72	Johnson, Marcus (T)	6-6	321	4	Mississippi	16/0	D2 05	D2 MINN 05	Former starter has become a forgotten man on this roster. Might not make it out of training camp.
74	**McKinnie, Bryant (T)**	**6-8**	**335**	**7**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 MINN 02**	**Vikings would like to see him make week-to-week improvement on the field and better decisions off of it.**
67	*Mozes, Dan (C)	6-3	293	2	West Virginia	0/0	CFA 07	CFA MINN 07	Spent last season on injured reserve; will try to stick around in a backup role.
65	Sullivan, John (C)	6-4	301	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D6 08	D6 MINN 08	Sixth-round pick likely will be groomed as Birk's replacement. Like Birk, considered a very smart player.
RUNNING BACKS									
43	Hicks, Maurice	5-11	205	6	North Carolina A&T	16/0	UFA,SF 08	CFA CHI 02	Free-agent acquisition will attempt to take over backup role formerly held by Mewelde Moore. Also can return kicks.
28	**Peterson, Adrian**	**6-1**	**217**	**2**	**Oklahoma**	**14/9**	**D1 07**	**D1 MINN 07**	**1,341 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns as a rookie. Could be scary good if he can stay healthy.**
38	Tahi, Naufahu (FB)	6-0	254	3	Brigham Young	10/0	FA 06	CFA CIN 06	Blocking fullback and special-teams player sticks on the roster because of his work ethic.
44	**Tapeh, Thomas (FB)**	**6-1**	**243**	**5**	**Minnesota**	**16/8**	**UFA,PHA 08**	**D5 PHA 04**	**Will replace Tony Richardson as primary lead blocker for Peterson and Taylor.**
29	Taylor, Chester	5-11	213	7	Toledo	14/8	UFA,BLT 06	D6 BLT 02	Part of an outstanding 1-2 punch with Peterson healthy and invaluable if Peterson gets hurt.
QUARTERBACKS									
9	Bollinger, Brooks	6-1	205	6	Wisconsin	5/1	T,NYJ 06	D6 NYJ 03	Will battle Booty for the No. 3 job; veteran appears to be a long shot to stick around.
4	Booty, John David	6-3	213	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D5 08	D5 MINN 08	Big-time experience at Southern Cal, not to mention familiarity with the West Coast system, should help transition.
12	Frerotte, Gus	6-3	233	15	Tulsa	8/3	FA 08	D7 WSH 94	Entering his second tour as a member of the Vikings, he was signed to be a coach in uniform for Jackson.
7	**Jackson, Tarvaris**	**6-2**	**232**	**3**	**Alabama State**	**12/12**	**D2 06**	**D2 MINN 06**	**Big things will be expected after he learned on the job in 2007.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	**Allen, Jared (E)**	**6-6**	**270**	**5**	**Idaho State**	**14/14**	**T,KC 08**	**D4 KC 04**	**The Vikings haven't had a player with a double-digit sack total since the 2004 season.**
71	Allen, Kenderick (T)	6-5	328	4	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 08	CFA NO 03	In the mix for competition to be in the tackle rotation.
91	***Edwards, Ray (E)**	**6-5**	**268**	**2**	**Purdue**	**12/11**	**D4 06**	**D4 MINN 06**	**Tied for team lead in sacks last season playing right end, he will make the switch to the left side.**
90	Evans, Fred (NT)	6-4	305	3	Texas St.-San Marcos	11/0	FA 07	D7 MIA 06	Presence of two Pro Bowl tackles in front of him means pressure is minimal.
73	Grigsby, Otis (E)	6-3	260	3	Kentucky	8/0	FA 07	CFA MIA 03	Signed from Carolina practice squad late last season to help add depth.
98	Guion, Leroy (T)	6-4	303	R	Florida State	0/0	D5 08	D5 MINN 08	Fifth-round pick is inexperienced, but team likes his potential. Could push Evans off the roster.
99	*James, Erasmus (E)	6-4	266	3	Wisconsin	6/1	D1 05	D1 MINN 05	Knee injuries past two seasons have severely limited him; any contribution in '08 will be a bonus.
92	Mitchell, Jayme (E)	6-6	285	3	Mississippi	10/0	FA 06	CFA MINN 06	Reserve was part of the rotation last season and had a sack. Has the ability to get pressure.
96	Robison, Brian (E)	6-3	259	2	Texas	16/5	D4 07	D4 MINN 07	Certainly will see playing time as backup and figures to be used as a pass-rush specialist.
95	Udeze, Kenechi (E)	6-3	281	4	Southern Cal	16/15	D1 04	D1 MINN 04	Will miss the season after being diagnosed with leukemia in February.
93	**Williams, Kevin (T)**	**6-5**	**311**	**5**	**Oklahoma State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 MINN 03**	**All-Pro selection is part of one of the NFL's top tackle duos.**
94	**Williams, Pat (T)**	**6-3**	**317**	**11**	**Texas A&M**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 05**	**CFA BUFF 97**	**Key reason the Vikings' run defense has become so dominant.**
97	Wyms, Ellis (T)	6-3	290	8	Mississippi State	13/0	UFA,SEA 08	D6 TB 01	Veteran free-agent pickup has the ability to play both end and tackle.
LINEBACKERS									
57	*Alexander, Rufus	6-1	232	2	Oklahoma	0/0	D6 07	D6 MINN 07	Should have a good chance to make the team as backup and special-teams contributor.
54	Ciurciu, Vinny (O)	6-0	235	6	Boston College	13/0	UFA,CAR 07	CFA CARO 03	Won't see much, if any, time at linebacker, but plays on all the special teams.
59	Farwell, Heath (O)	6-0	235	4	San Diego State	16/0	FA 05	CFA MINN 05	Vikings special teams MVP the past two seasons, he had a team-leading 32 tackles in that area in 2007.
52	**Greenway, Chad (O)**	**6-2**	**242**	**3**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 MINN 06**	**Took over as starter on the weak side last season and showed steady improvement throughout.**
56	**Henderson, E.J. (M)**	**6-1**	**245**	**6**	**Maryland**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 MINN 03**	**Moved back to his natural spot in the middle last season and played much of the year at a Pro Bowl level.**
58	Herron, David (O)	6-1	239	1	Michigan State	2/0	FA 07	CFA MINN 07	Spent most of last season on the practice squad, but did play in the final two games.
51	**Leber, Ben (O)**	**6-3**	**244**	**7**	**Kansas State**	**16/10**	**UFA,SD 06**	**D3 SD 02**	**Strong-side LB, tied with Edwards and Udeze for the team lead with five sacks in 2007.**
55	Pope, Derrick (O)	6-0	232	5	Alabama	16/9	UFA,MIA 08	D7 MIA 04	Expected to be the primary backup at all three positions and also contribute on special teams.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
27	Boulware, Michael (S)	6-3	220	5	Florida State	16/0	UFA,HOU 08	D2 SEA 04	Veteran free-agent addition will provide depth at safety and should help strengthen special teams.
37	Frampton, Eric (S)	5-11	205	2	Washington State	14/0	W,DET 07	D5 OAK 07	Played in nine games last season, but still ranked fourth in special teams tackles with 14.
41	Gordon, Charles (CB)	5-11	180	3	Kansas	16/3	FA 06	CFA MINN 06	Figures to battle McCauley and Sapp for a role in the nickel defense.
23	**Griffin, Cedric (CB)**	**6-0**	**203**	**3**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 MINN 06**	**Will be entering second full season as starting right corner.**
25	Johnson, Tyrell (S)	6-0	207	R	Arkansas State	0/0	D2 08	D2 MINN 08	Second-round choice, will spend season learning behind Sharper.
21	McCauley, Marcus (CB)	6-1	203	2	Fresno State	16/9	D3 07	D3 MINN 07	Lost job in nickel defense last season, but saw plenty of time subbing for injured Winfield.
22	Sapp, Benny (CB)	5-9	190	5	Northern Iowa	14/2	UFA,KC 08	CFA KC 04	Will add depth at the corner spot and be in the mix for a job in the nickel.
42	**Sharper, Darren (S)**	**6-2**	**210**	**12**	**William & Mary**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D2 GB 97**	**Playmaking safety could be a main beneficiary of Allen getting pressure on quarterbacks.**
20	***Williams, Madieu (S)**	**6-1**	**203**	**5**	**Maryland**	**13/13**	**UFA,CIN 08**	**D2 CIN 04**	**Coverage abilities should make him a good fit, but must prove he can stay healthy.**
26	**Winfield, Antoine (CB)**	**5-9**	**180**	**10**	**Ohio State**	**10/10**	**UFA,BUFF 04**	**D1 BUFF 99**	**Remains one of the hardest-hitting corners in the NFL despite being only 5-9.**
SPECIALISTS									
5	Kluwe, Chris (P)	6-4	215	4	UCLA	16/0	W,SEA 05	CFA SEA 05	Appeared far more comfortable last season with the directional punting the Vikings often want him to do.
46	Loeffler, Cullen (LS)	6-5	241	5	Texas	16/0	CFA 04	CFA MINN 04	Has had one bad snap in his four seasons with the Vikings and that came in his second year.
8	Longwell, Ryan (K)	6-0	200	12	California	16/0	UFA,GB 06	CFA SF 97	Pleased coaching staff by improving his distance on kickoffs in 2007.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft;
T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Nate Jones (Texas), Brent Little (1, Southern Illinois), Martin Nance (1, Miami, Ohio), Darius Reynaud (West Virginia), Justin Surrency (1, Northern Iowa); OT Drew Radovich (Southern Cal); C Tim Mattran (Stanford); QB Kyle Wright (Miami); RBs Arkee Whitlock (1, Southern Illinois), Albert Young (Iowa); DE Martail Burnett (Utah); DT Leger Douzable (UCF); LBs Erin Henderson (Maryland), J Leman (Illinois); CBs Travis Key (Michigan State), Dee McCann (1, West Virginia), Brandon Sumrall (Southern Mississippi), Marcus Walker (Oklahoma); Ss Husain Abdullah (Washington State), Marcus Griffin (Texas); PK Steven Hauschka (North Carolina State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Running back Adrian Peterson has spent much of his off-season working on improving his pass protection and it's expected he will be much improved. This is key because last season Peterson often had to come off the field in crucial situations because of concerns about his ability to pick up blitzes.
2. Free-agent addition Madieu Williams is considered to be superior in pass coverage compared to veteran Dwight Smith, who played opposite Darren Sharper last season. Williams' ability to cover could free Sharper to do what he loves: freelance.
3. Ray Edwards, who tied for the team lead with five sacks despite being suspended for the final four games after violating the NFL's policy on steroids, could see his sack total skyrocket. The addition of Jared Allen, and the focus on him, should free up Edwards for a big year.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Tarvaris Jackson

Brad Childress has made his decision.

Tarvaris Jackson will enter the season as the Vikings' starting quarterback for the second consecutive year.

What isn't clear is just how long the Vikings coach will stick with Jackson if the Division I-AA product from Alabama State struggles at the outset.

Last year, Jackson started 12 games, missed three because of injury and was benched for a 34-0 loss in November at Green Bay. He went 8-4 in his starts, which included a 41-17 victory over the eventual Super Bowl champion Giants.

But Jackson also ended up throwing more interceptions than touchdowns and finished the season ranked 28th among 33 quarterbacks in the NFL with a 70.8 rating.

Statistics like that are no longer going to cut it with a team that is likely to be favored by many to win the NFC North after making several off-season moves.

One of those was the signing of veteran Gus Frerotte. The hope is Frerotte can serve as a mentor and sounding board for Jackson.

The reality is that if Jackson doesn't show he has taken another step in his maturation as a quarterback, Frerotte might find himself in a far more important role.

LINEBACKERS

E.J. Henderson had a Pro Bowl-caliber season as he returned to the middle linebacker spot in 2007 after playing outside for two seasons. Henderson led the Vikings with a career-high 155 tackles and 4.5 sacks.

Chad Greenway (weak side) and Ben Leber (strong side) also are coming off strong seasons and will be back on the outside.

Primary backup Dontarrious Thomas went to San Francisco as a free agent, but the Vikings signed Derrick Pope (Miami) to add depth. Special-teams aces Heath Farwell and Vinny Ciurciu also are back.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

This unit will have a bit of a new look with Madieu Williams replacing Dwight Smith at one of the safety spots. Frazier was familiar with Williams from their time together and the feeling is he will be a better fit than Smith.

Williams, 26, will line up opposite Darren Sharper, who will turn 33 in November and is entering the final season of his contract. The Vikings drafted Tyrell Johnson of Arkansas State with their second-round pick and he likely will be groomed as Sharper's replacement.

Veteran Antoine Winfield and Cedric Griffin return as the starting corners. Winfield missed six games last season because of injury, giving then-rookie Marcus McCauley an opportunity to gain valuable experience. The Vikings also have added safety Michael Boulware and cornerback Benny Sapp as free agents.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Ryan Longwell will be entering his 12th season but the Vikings don't appear interested in bringing in any competition. The team was happy with the fact Longwell was able to improve his distance on kickoffs and he made 20 of 24 field-goal attempts. Three of those misses came from more than 50 yards. Punter Chris Kluwe received a six-year, $8.3 million contract extension last October and averaged 44.7 gross yards and 37.0 net. Cullen Loeffler will continue as the long snapper. The punt and kick return jobs will have competition. Running back Maurice Hicks, signed as a free agent, is the leading candidate to return kicks. Wade returned punts for part of last season and could be in that mix.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Childress' more relaxed demeanor last season — he would often come down to the locker room and eat with players on Fridays — seemed to make a difference in the general mood around Winter Park. Players seemed looser and that certainly wasn't a bad thing.

RATING: Plus 1

—Judd Zulgad

2007 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 9	ATLANTA	24- 3
Sep. 16	at Detroit (OT)	17-20
Sep. 23	at Kansas City	10-13
Sep. 30	GREEN BAY	16-23
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at Chicago	34-31
Oct. 21	at Dallas	14-24
Oct. 28	PHILADELPHIA	16-23
Nov. 4	SAN DIEGO	35-17
Nov. 11	at Green Bay	0-34
Nov. 18	OAKLAND	29-22
Nov. 25	at N.Y. Giants	41-17
Dec. 2	DETROIT	42-10
Dec. 9	at San Francisco (Mon.)	27- 7
Dec. 17	CHICAGO	20-13
Dec. 23	WASHINGTON	21-32
Dec. 30	at Denver (OT)	19-22

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 8	SEATTLE (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at Baltimore (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 23	PITTSBURGH (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 28	at Dallas (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 8	at Green Bay (Mon.)	6:00
Sep. 14	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00
Sep. 21	CAROLINA	12:00
Sep. 28	at Tennessee	12:00
Oct. 6	at New Orleans (Mon.)	7:30
Oct. 12	DETROIT	12:00
Oct. 19	at Chicago	12:00
Oct. 26	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 2	HOUSTON	12:00
Nov. 9	GREEN BAY	12:00
Nov. 16	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov. 23	at Jacksonville	1:00
Nov. 30	CHICAGO	7:15
Dec. 7	at Detroit	1:00
Dec. 14	at Arizona	2:05
Dec. 21	ATLANTA	12:00
Dec. 28	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00

NFC SOUTH

Whose Turn is it Now?

Over the past five seasons, there have been four different South champions. Atlanta, Carolina, New Orleans and Tampa Bay seem content on passing the baton from team to team like a relay team in track. But when it comes to repeating as division champs, forget about it. Not only has the defending South champion failed to make the playoffs the following year, it has failed to even post a winning record. The trend has held true every year since realignment in 2002. This can't come as good news for the Buccaneers, the only team in the division to post a winning record last season at 9-7. Tampa's vaunted defense isn't what it used to be, but remains better than most. The Bucs' best hopes for a repeat lie in another strong season by gritty but creaky quarterback Jeff Garcia, 38. Otherwise, it looks like New Orleans, with the best set of skill position players in the division, will prove that last season's 7-9 pratfall was a fluke and make another run at the NFC title. Carolina's defense no longer strikes fear in opponents; Atlanta is just searching for respectability.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Their star quarterback is serving 23 months in Leavenworth on federal charges related to dogfighting. Their won-loss record plummeted, and so has season-ticket sales. Can it get any worse for the Falcons? Probably not, but don't expect a quantum leap forward in the standings, either. And don't expect No. 3 overall draft pick Matt Ryan to be the second coming of the imprisoned Michael Vick at quarterback. For starters, Ryan isn't nearly as mobile as Vick — who is? He may not be ready to start by opening day, either. Under new coach Mike Smith, the Falcons will rely on defense and the running game.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

John Fox loves to run the football — only eight teams had more carries than his Panthers last season. And if he wasn't the "inventor" of the two-back system currently in vogue in the NFL, he was at the cutting edge. All signs point to another run-happy season in Charlotte. After loading up on beefy guards Milford Brown, Toniu Fonoti, and Keydrick Vincent in free agency, Oregon running back Jonathan Stewart was drafted No. 13 overall. Stewart, who is expected to be fine following off-season toe surgery, provides the power in the backfield with DeAngelo Williams furnishing the speed. At least that's the theory.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

After picking off only 10 passes and allowing 54 completions of 20-plus yards in '07, the emphasis was on upgrading the defense. After signing defensive end Bobby McCray in free agency, they traded up to No. 7 overall to draft Southern Cal defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis. Veterans Jonathan Vilma and Dan Morgan were added at linebacker. At cornerback, Randall Gay and Aaron Glenn were added in free agency, and as a topper, Indiana cornerback Tracy Porter was drafted in Round 2. The Saints don't need all of those moves to pay off; just enough to help the defense close the gap with their potent offense.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Defense always seems to come first in Tampa, so it shouldn't be surprising that the Buccaneers ignored an obvious need for offensive juice to take Kansas cornerback Aqib Talib in the first round of the draft. True, the Bucs added veteran running back Warrick Dunn in free agency, but at age 33, he's not the player he once was. At wide receiver, Joey Galloway is nearly old enough for an AARP card and Michael Clayton continues to disappoint. Maybe Jon Gruden is going to a two-quarterback backfield because he collected them like Derrick Brooks autographs in the off-season. Looks like the Bucs will have to win with defense. Again.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Is everything Jake with Delhomme's elbow?

The Panthers certainly hope so, because there's not much of a safety net. Delhomme's projected backups at quarterback, Matt Moore and Brett Basanez, are both green as FieldTurf.

2. Can Reggie Bush rediscover his mojo?

He better. After a subpar sophomore season, Bush needs to pick up the production. Particularly since Deuce McAllister, coming off surgeries to both knees, is far from a sure thing to play a full 16.

3. Who has the best RB tandem?

The obvious answer no longer is McAllister and Bush. Carolina's one-two punch of rookie Jonathan Stewart and DeAngelo Williams may open eyes. Ditto for Michael Turner and Jerious Norwood in Atlanta.

4. Can you go home again?

In the case of Carolina wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad and Tampa Bay running back Warrick Dunn, the answer is yes. Both are rejoining the teams that drafted them in the mid '90s. Beware, nostalgia can be a cruel thing.

5. Can Carolina regroup on defense?

To do so, they need a revived Julius Peppers and several newcomers to step up. After averaging 10.5 sacks in his first five seasons, Peppers fell to 2.5 in '07. Defensive end Mike Rucker has retired; defensive tackle Kris Jenkins was traded.

— Jim Thomas

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Thursday
3 Boise State -10.5 ov S. Miss. 38-16 **WON**

Friday
3 Under 56.5 West Va/S.Florida 21-13 **WON**

Saturday
5 Kent-3 ov Ohio 33-25 **WON**
4 Washington +20.5 ov USC 24-27 **WON**
3 Stanford +14.5 OV Ariz. State 3-41 LOST

Sunday
4 NY Jets -3 OV Buffalo14-17 LOST
3 under 39.5 T.Bay/Carolina 20-7 **WON**
3 Dallas -13 OV St Louis 35-7 **WON**

Monday
3 New England -7.5 OV Cinci 34-13 **WON**

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- **WON 16 of the last 23 weeks in 07'**
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- **Winning Streaks of 6 straight weeks, 10 of 11 weeks and WON double digit units in 12 weeks of 2007**
- **WON over 280 net units in 2007**
  Last 4 yrs: won nearly 800 net units
- **Top Game each Saturday and Sunday went 33-9-1 in 2007.**
  Last 4 years: 126 -41 -3 (75.44%)
- **Lock of the Years went 5-0-1 in 2007**
  Last 4 yrs: 21-2-1(91.3%)

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Thomas Dimitroff

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DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
David Caldwell

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Emmitt Thomas	Assistant head coach	28	7
Mike Mularkey	Offensive coordinator	15	1
Paul Boudreau	Offensive line	22	1
Paul Dunn	Assistant line	1	1
Bill Musgrave	Quarterbacks	10	3
Gerald Brown	Running backs	1	1
Terry Robiskie	Receivers	27	1
Chris Scelfo	Tight ends	1	1
Glenn Thomas	Off. quality control	1	1
Brian VanGorder	Defensive coordinator	3	2
Ray Hamilton	Defensive line	22	1
Glenn Pires	Linebackers	13	1
Alvin Reynolds	Secondary	16	1
Joe Danna	Def. quality control	1	1
Keith Armstrong	Special teams coordinator	15	1
Tom McMahon	Special teams asst.	2	2
Jeff Fish	Strength & Cond.	7	1
Bill Hughan	Strength & Cond.	5	1
Billy Johnson	Strength & Cond.	3	3

Falcons Expect Ryan to be New Face of the Franchise

Two seasons ago, there were expectations of the Falcons playing in the Super Bowl. Entering last season, there were expectations of a competitive team with a barnstorming offense led by quarterback Michael Vick and ring-leading coach Bobby Petrino.

Now, no one knows what to expect.

Team owner Arthur Blank, whose trust was violated as badly as his football product and season ticket coffers with the Vick-Petrino debacle in 2007, has charted a course into the unknown.

He hired a first-time general manager (Thomas Dimitroff), a first-time coach (Mike Smith) and signed off on ridding the roster of nearly everybody and anything that reminded him of last season.

Things started anew with a draft that brought in squeaky-clean Boston College quarterback Matt Ryan, an understated free-agent crop headlined by former Chargers backup tailback Michael Turner and sense of front-office rebirth from top to bottom.

Ryan's arrival shut the door on Vick's return after he completes a 23-month prison sentence on federal dogfighting charges. Vick will forever be linked to the franchise, but he is now passed-tense, replaced by Ryan, who must initially deal with comparisons, in some form or fashion, to Vick.

The short-term results on the field might not be much better than they were last season (4-12), but getting through a year with minimal controversy and an actual blueprint of how this franchise will be re-constructed would be welcomed by a disenchanted fan base longing for a semblance of hope.

COACHING

Smith's low-key style will be welcome by players, new and old. Smith has done a great job communicating with players and keeping a two-way flow of conversation — quite contrary to Petrino.

To offset his inexperience, Smith hired an NFL-seasoned staff (Mike Mularkey, Ray Hamilton, Terry Robiskie, Paul Boudreau, among others) that should be able to maximize a roster in transition. Though defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder — last season's linebackers coach — is doing this for the first time in the NFL, he was a standout coordinator at the University of Georgia and is highly respected by players.

Special teams coordinator Keith Armstrong was a huge acquisition because the kicking game could play a huge factor in this young team's ability to stay competitive.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

Ryan is the new face of the franchise and will be the starter in the future. How far into the future is the (multi) million-dollar question.

The Falcons are already pitching Ryan hard to spur season-ticket sales and there could be certain pressures to see The New Era on the field as soon

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Michael Turner
He will have to move a lot of piles on his own because of potential flaws along the offensive line.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
FS Erik Coleman, K Jason Elam, DE Simon Fraser, TE Ben Hartsock, CB Von Hutchins, DT Rashad Moore, DT Kindal Moorehead, C Alex Stepanovich

KEY LOSS:
TE Alge Crumpler (14/10)*
Though his knee has limited his athleticism, Crumpler's leadership and playmaking ability can't be discounted. It will be missed.

OTHER LOSSES:
K Morten Andersen (14/0), TE Courtney Anderson (2/0), TE Dwayne Blakley (12/3), DT Rod Coleman (5/5), S Chris Crocker (14/14), RB Warrick Dunn (16/15), OT Wayne Gandy (5/5), CB DeAngelo Hall (16/15), QB Byron Leftwich (3/2), S Omare Lowe (0/0), CB Lewis Sanders (14/6), LB Marcus Wilkins (15/0), OLB Demorrio Williams (16/16)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 9 offense, 8 defense, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

as possible. Dimitroff has expressed concerns about young quarterbacks being thrust into unfavorable situations and getting ruined (David Carr). Yet, with Mularkey likely running a conservative offense, the pitfalls for Ryan could be minimized.

Until Ryan is ready, Chris Redman will be the starter. There won't be any Brady Quinn-Derek Anderson style controversy because even though Redman is a proud competitor, he was out of football for a while and is simply grateful to be back playing the game. Joey Harrington and D.J. Shockley will compete for the final roster spot.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

Turner gives the Falcons the bruising grinder with breakaway speed that they've wanted for a few years. He hasn't been a starter in the NFL before (he backed up San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson) and how he adapts to such a burden is crucial. Turner won't lug 25 carries a game, as the Falcons finally will properly use game-breaker Jerious Norwood in a rotation with Turner. Fullback Ovie Mughelli will be used on the majority of downs, either as a lead backer or in pass protection.

RATING: 7

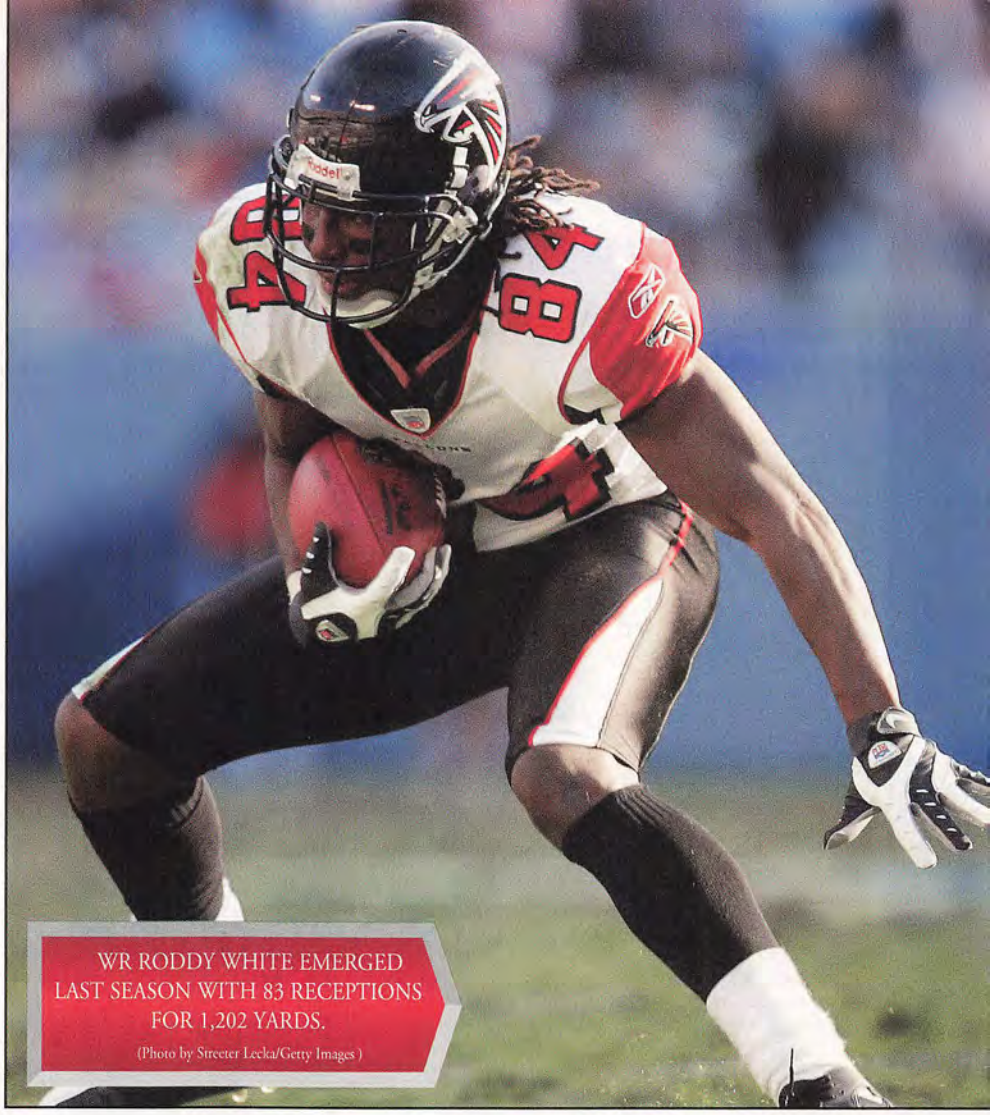
RECEIVERS

Roddy White blossomed in this third season (83 receptions, 1,202 yards, six touchdowns). His numbers might not be as prolific in the run-oriented system, but he is the No. 1 option in the passing game. Second-year wide receiver Laurent Robinson, whose physical stature is similar to White's, is a potential breakout player.

Where former first-round pick Michael Jenkins fits is a big question. He worked out of the slot last season, but the drafting of diminutive Harry Douglas out of Louisville signals Atlanta plans to go with a Wes Welker-type slot receiver. Joe Horn's role also is uncertain. Veteran Brian Finneran will attempt to come back from missing the past two seasons with consecutive ACL surgeries to the same knee.

Tight end Ben Hartsock will be used primarily as a blocker while second-year tight end Martrez Milner could serve more as an H-back/receiver.

RATING: 6.5



WR RODDY WHITE EMERGED LAST SEASON WITH 83 RECEPTIONS FOR 1,202 YARDS.

(Photo by Streeter Lecka/Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Veterans Todd McClure (center) and Kynan Forney (right guard) are the anchors of a very unsettled unit that will be guided by longtime NFL line coach Paul Boudreau.

Last season's starting left guard Justin Blalock is being worked at right tackle because incumbent Todd Weiner is coming off major knee surgery and his status in uncertain. If Weiner is able to come back — healthy — that could solidify the line on the right side and give the running game a huge boost.

First-round draft pick Sam Baker will start at left tackle, where he will get a lot of help to his left from a tight end. Left guard could end up being manned by Blalock, but he will have to make major strides from last season to be effective. Quinn Ojinnaka also could end up starting at left guard.

RATING: 5.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Atlanta went from having a shot at Louisiana State defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey to not drafting the position at all. Undersized but effective Jonathan Babineaux will become the full-time starter at the 3-technique spot, while a rotation that will feature Kindal Moorehead and Rashad Moore will occupy nose tackle. If nose tackle Trey Lewis can recover from a second knee surgery in the past year, he could be in the mix, but his injury is a concern. There is a possibility that free-agent nose tackle Grady Jackson could be signed.

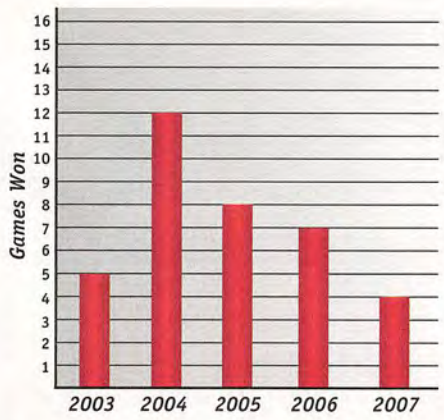
John Abraham, Jamaal Anderson and reliable backup Chauncey Davis form a nice three-man nucleus at end. Montana's Kroy Biermann was drafted for depth, a must due to Abraham's injury history.

There is the possibility that Atlanta could use Anderson as a pass-rushing tackle at times, much like the Giants used Justin Tuck in pass situations. Anderson is best off the edge, but with limited pass-rushing personnel along the interior, VanGorder has to be creative.

With the way the personnel is set up, there could be the chance that the Falcons are the latest team to flex between a 4-3 and a 3-4 with the 4-3 scheme being the base set.

RATING: 6

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2004*

Falcons Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
83	Douglas, Harry	5-11	169	R	Louisville	0/0	D 3 08	D3 ATL 08	Diminutive rookie hopes for Wes Welker-like production from slot.
86	*Finneran, Brian	6-5	217	10	Villanova	0/0	FA 00	CFA SEA 99	Trying to bounce back from ACL operations in consecutive years.
89	**Hartsock, Ben (TE)**	**6-4**	**265**	**5**	**Ohio State**	**16/9**	**UFA, TENN 08**	**D3 IND 04**	**The starter at tight end, but will be used more as a blocker.**
87	Horn, Joe	6-1	208	13	Itawamba JC	12/12	FA 07	D5 KC 96	Former starter likely will be relegated to backup role.
12	Jenkins, Michael	6-4	208	5	Ohio State	15/6	D1 04	D1 ATL 04	No longer a starter and could be No. 4 on depth chart.
81	Jennings, Adam	5-9	176	3	Fresno State	16/2	D6 06	D6 ATL 06	Former punt returner has to dazzle to retain roster spot.
88	*Milner, Martrez (TE)	6-4	260	2	Georgia	8/2	D4 07	D4 ATL 07	H-Back/receiving tight end needs to stay healthy.
85	Rader, Jason (TE)	6-4	260	2	Marshall	0/0	FA 08	CFA ATL 04	Has a shot to earn a spot since depth is needed at tight end.
19	**Robinson, Laurent**	**6-2**	**201**	**2**	**Illinois State**	**15/6**	**D3 07**	**D3 ATL 07**	**Potential breakout player moves into starting role.**
14	Weems, Eric	5-9	190	1	Bethune-Cookman	1/0	FA 07	CFA ATL 07	He could make team as punt returner.
84	**White, Roddy**	**6-0**	**206**	**4**	**Alabama-Birmingham**	**16/15**	**D1 05**	**D1 ATL 05**	**No. 1 offensive option, game-breaking ability.**
82	Zinger, Keith (TE)	6-4	250	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D7 08	D7 ATL 08	A much-needed blocker type in two-tight end sets.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	**Baker, Sam (T)**	**6-5**	**314**	**R**	**Southern Cal**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 ATL 08**	**First-round draft pick steps in as starting left tackle.**
70	Batiste, D'Anthony (G)	6-4	318	3	Louisiana-Lafayette	4/4	W,CARO 07	CFA DALL 06	Backup guard got vital experience last season.
63	**Blalock, Justin (T/G)**	**6-4**	**329**	**2**	**Texas**	**14/14**	**D2 07**	**D2 ATL 07**	**Starting left guard in '07 could be starting right tackle in '08.**
77	Clabo, Tyson (G)	6-6	319	3	Wake Forest	11/11	FA 06	CFA DEN 04	Top backup guard/tackle. A capable starter.
73	Dahl, Harvey (T)	6-5	313	3	Nevada	1/0	FA 07	CFA DALL 05	Great size and nasty temperament.
61	*Datish, Doug (C)	6-5	306	2	Ohio State	0/0	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	Trying to regain form after missing all of '07 (broken wrist).
65	**Forney, Kynan (G)**	**6-3**	**311**	**8**	**Hawaii**	**14/14**	**D7 01**	**D7 ATL 01**	**Once the best of the group must prove downturn in '07 was a fluke.**
79	*Foster, Renardo (G)	6-7	326	2	Louisville	7/2	CFA 07	CFA ATL 07	Second-year player with a lot of talent is coming off torn ACL.
62	**McClure, Todd (C)**	**6-1**	**295**	**10**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D7 99**	**D7 ATL 99**	**Offensive leader and most reliable member of this unit.**
64	McCoy, Pat (T)	6-5	328	2	West Texas	0/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 06	Great size is intriguing. Could challenge for a roster spot.
76	**Ojinnaka, Quinn (G/T)**	**6-5**	**312**	**3**	**Syracuse**	**11/7**	**D5 06**	**D5 ATL 06**	**Former tackle with vinegar in veins could best be suited here.**
66	*Pennington, Terrance (T)	6-7	325	3	New Mexico	5/0	FA 07	D7 BUFF 06	Among the many hopefuls who must earn a roster spot.
71	Quarterman, Kurt (G)	6-5	342	1	Louisville	0/0	FA 07	CFA ATL 07	Second-year player could get caught in numbers game.
69	Stepanovich, Alex (C)	6-4	300	5	Ohio State	12/4	UFA,CIN 08	D4 ARIZ 04	Former Bengal will back up center and guard.
74	*Weiner, Todd (T)	6-4	314	11	Kansas State	8/7	UFA,SEA 02	D2 SEA 98	Coming off major knee surgery. Playing status in question.
67	Wilkerson, Ben (C)	6-4	305	3	Louisiana State	16/0	FA 07	CFA CIN 05	Vying for second-team guard/tackle spot.
RUNNING BACKS									
27	Brown, Thomas	5-8	204	R	Georgia	0/0	D6 08	D6 ATL 08	Main role could be as kickoff returner.
38	McIntyre, Corey (FB)	6-0	244	4	West Virginia	14/0	W,NO 06	CFA PHA 02	Backup fullback was special teams captain in '07.
34	**Mughelli, Ovie (FB)**	**6-1**	**254**	**6**	**Wake Forest**	**16/7**	**UFA,BLT 07**	**D4 BLT 03**	**High-paid fullback could be used more than 50 percent of snaps.**
32	Norwood, Jerious	5-11	202	3	Mississippi State	15/2	D3 06	D3 ATL 06	Team's biggest game-breaker could see average of 15 touches.
44	Snelling, Jason (FB)	5-11	231	2	Virginia	7/0	D7 07	D7 ATL 07	Combo-back will be pushed for a roster spot.
33	**Turner, Michael**	**5-10**	**237**	**5**	**Northern Illinois**	**16/0**	**UFA,SD 08**	**D5 SD 04**	**How will he handle the load as a starter?**
QUARTERBACKS									
13	Harrington, Joey	6-4	222	7	Oregon	12/10	FA 08	D1 DET 02	One-time starter will be somebody's backup.
8	**Redman, Chris**	**6-3**	**223**	**6**	**Louisville**	**7/4**	**FA 07**	**D3 BLT 00**	**Comeback kid earned temporary starting job.**
2	Ryan, Matt	6-4	221	R	Boston College	0/0	D1 08	D1 ATL 08	How long until No. 3 overall pick enters the starting lineup?
3	*Shockley, D.J.	6-0	220	3	Georgia	0/0	D7 06	D7 ATL 06	Local hero must recover from knee injury or he could be gone.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
55	**Abraham, John (E)**	**6-4**	**266**	**9**	**South Carolina**	**16/16**	**T,NYJ 06**	**D1 NYJ 00**	**Quietly had a healthy and productive '07. Can he repeat both?**
98	**Anderson, Jamaal (E)**	**6-6**	**283**	**2**	**Arkansas**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 ATL 07**	**Got close, but didn't do enough too often. Improvement a must.**
93	Anderson, Tim (T)	6-3	304	4	Ohio State	9/0	FA 07	D3 BUFF 04	Could be used anywhere on the line as a backup if he makes team.
95	**Babineaux, Jonathan (T)**	**6-2**	**288**	**4**	**Iowa**	**14/9**	**D2 05**	**D2 ATL 05**	**No. 1 tackle has been highly productive because of his great motor.**
71	Biermann, Kroy (E)	6-3	241	R	Montana	0/0	D5 08	D5 ATL 08	Undersized rookie could play in passing situations.
92	Davis, Chauncey (E)	6-2	271	4	Florida State	16/0	D4 05	D4 ATL 05	Reliable backup at both ends.
75	Fraser, Simon (E)	6-6	300	4	Ohio State	16/1	FA 08	CFA CLV 05	A big end that could allow the Falcons to flex from a 4-3 to 3-4.
99	Jones, Derrick (E)	6-4	282	1	Grand Valley State	1/0	FA 07	CFA PITT 07	Rangy prospect who'll compete for a roster spot.
97	*Lewis, Trey (T)	6-3	317	2	Washburn	9/5	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	A torn ACL could prevent starting nose tackle from playing this season.
90	**Moore, Rashad (T)**	**6-3**	**325**	**4**	**Tennessee**	**1/0**	**FA 08**	**D6 SEA 03**	**For now, the best candidate to start at nose tackle.**
94	Moorehead, Kindal (T)	6-2	285	6	Alabama	16/1	UFA,CARO 08	D5 CARO 03	Dependable and productive rotational player.
91	*Patterson, David	6-5	285	2	Ohio State	0/0	CFA 07	CFA ATL 07	He has potential, but competition could land him on practice squad.
96	Stanley, Montavious (NT)	6-2	308	3	Louisville	14/6	W,DALL 07	D6 DALL 06	Likely will join Moorehead in tackle rotation.
LINEBACKERS									
59	**Boley, Michael (O)**	**6-3**	**242**	**4**	**Southern Mississippi**	**16/16**	**D5 05**	**D5 ATL 05**	**Best player on defense in line for a big contract extension.**
56	**Brooking, Keith (O)**	**6-2**	**243**	**11**	**Georgia Tech**	**16/16**	**D1 98**	**D1 ATL 98**	**Expected to move back to weak side, where he is at his best.**
45	James, Robert	5-10	226	R	Arizona State	0/0	D5 08	D5 ATL 08	Will have to earn a spot by playing special teams.
50	**Lofton, Curtis (M)**	**6-0**	**238**	**R**	**Oklahoma**	**0/0**	**D2 08**	**D2 ATL 08**	**Rookie thumper to take over at middle linebacker.**
54	Nicholas, Stephen (O)	6-3	232	2	South Florida	13/0	D4 07	D4 ATL 07	Lost starting job with move of Brooking. Will backup both outside linebackers.
53	Taylor, Tony (M)	6-0	241	2	Georgia	16/0	CFA 07	CFA ATL 07	A solid special teamer.
52	Williams, Travis (M)	6-1	224	2	Auburn	6/0	FA 07	CFA ATL 06	Undersized, but plays special teams with passion.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
26	**Coleman, Erik (S)**	**5-10**	**200**	**5**	**Washington State**	**15/4**	**UFA,NYJ 08**	**D5 NYJ 04**	**Coaches are hoping he can show ball skills in deep coverage.**
28	DeCoud, Thomas (S)	6-0	196	R	California	0/0	D3 08	D3 ATL 08	Could be used at either safety spot in Cover 2 scheme.
37	Fontenot, Wilrey (CB)	5-9	174	R	Arizona	0/0	D7 08	D7 ATL 08	Small in size, but could be perfect matchup nickel back.
20	Grimes, Brent (CB)	5-10	180	1	Shippensburg	2/0	FA 07	CFA ATL 06	Athleticism is magnetizing, but size and durability are questions.
41	Harris, Antoine (CB)	5-10	200	2	Louisville	13/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 05	Can play any spot in the secondary.
23	**Houston, Chris (CB)**	**5-11**	**183**	**2**	**Arkansas**	**16/11**	**D2 07**	**D2 ATL 07**	**Big-time talent. Consistency needs to be upgraded.**
25	**Hutchins, Von (CB)**	**5-10**	**180**	**5**	**Mississippi**	**16/15**	**UFA,HOU 08**	**D6 IND 04**	**Ideal nickel back, but could open season as starting left corner.**
30	Irons, David (CB)	5-11	190	2	Auburn	15/0	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	Top special teams player.
29	Jackson, Chevis (CB)	5-11	188	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D3 08	D3 ATL 08	Long-limbed rookie a perfect Cover 2 fit. Projected to start at some point.
36	**Milloy, Lawyer (S)**	**6-0**	**213**	**13**	**Washington**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D2 NE 96**	**Veteran deserves a pay raise for everything team is asking of him.**
39	Stone, Daren (S)	6-3	218	2	Maine	12/0	D6 07	D6 ATL 07	Raw athlete needs to step up his game in order to make the team.
27	Turnbull, Nick (S)	6-2	222	3	Florida International	0/0	W,CIN 08	CFA ATL 06	Added to roster after the draft; could compete for backup spot.
24	Williams, Jimmy (S)	6-3	212	3	Virginia Tech	14/2	D2 06	D2 ATL 06	Enigmatic talent has yet to figure things out. If he does, watch out.
SPECIALISTS									
1	Elam, Jason (K)	5-11	200	16	Hawaii	16/0	UFA,DEN 08	D3 DEN 93	Could pull major duty since offense might not venture too deep into the red zone very often.
9	Koenen, Michael (P)	5-11	194	4	Western Washington	16/0	CFA 05	CFA ATL 05	Right now projects to be used more than at any point in his three previous seasons.
46	Schneck, Mike (LS)	6-1	237	10	Wisconsin	12/0	FA 07	CFA PITT 99	As solid as they come.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR Chandler Williams (1, Florida International); TE George Cooper (1, Georgia Tech); OT Michael Butterworth (Slippery Rock); RB Jamar Brittingham (Bloomsburg); DEs Willie Evans (1, Mississippi State), Brandon Miller (Georgia); LBs Isaac Brown (Central Michigan), Earl Everett (1, Florida), Cameron Vaughn (1, Louisiana State); CB Glenn Sharpe (Miami); Ss C.J. Gaddis (1, Clemson), D.J. Wolfe (Oklahoma); PK Kevin Lovell (1, Cincinnati); P Jimmie Kaylor (Colorado State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. How long will it take for first-round draft pick (No. 3 overall) quarterback Matt Ryan to break into the starting lineup? Because of the money he will be paid and the quest to make him the new face of the franchise, it could be sooner rather than later.
2. Will Michael Turner be able to handle being a starter for the first time? He has never carried the load for an entire season, and others in his position have failed to live up to expectations.
3. Wide receivers Roddy White and Michael Jenkins could emerge into a dynamic tandem, but it will take stability at the quarterback position for that to happen.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Jamaal Anderson

Jamaal Anderson was selected eighth overall last season and inserted as the starting left end to help solidify the run and get pressure on the quarterback — similar to what Patrick Kerney had done before he bolted to Seattle via free agency. Anderson, who needs to improve his overall strength to match his speed and athleticism, failed to register a sack in 16 starts, but was adequate in the running game.

By no fault of his own, Anderson didn't have tackle Rod Coleman (injured and since cut) to ease some of his burden. He was forced to play more head up than he did in college, when he lined up off the edge.

Though the Falcons didn't acquire much help at tackle in this draft, Anderson has a year under his belt, which tends to bode well for ends (see Mario Williams). He is working with former Falcons' sack specialist Chuck Smith to improve his technique, a step that shows he wants to get better.

Anderson doesn't want to be a failure and is taking the off-season measures to improve. Those have to translate to on-field production, though. If Anderson shows progress, it could make a huge difference in the defense's potential.

LINEBACKERS

The selection of Oklahoma's Curtis Lofton in the second round to play middle linebacker allows Keith Brooking to move to his natural weak-side spot. Brooking should flourish now that he's back home after three seasons of playing out of position. Brooking's relocation does stunt the development of upstart Stephen Nicholas, but VanGorder will find a way to get Nicholas playing time.

Strong-side linebacker Michael Boley is the best of the bunch. His versatility allows him to rush the passer and drop in coverage. He's gotten more physical too, which was the one flaw in his game. The Falcons have been in negotiations to sign Boley to a long-term deal to keep him off the unrestricted free-agent market in 2009. This is the strongest unit on the team.

RATING 8

SECONDARY

Realizing this is an area of concern, the Falcons have added more players here than at any other position to figure out who can play and where.

Strong safety Lawyer Milloy is in his last season and will be counted on to lead a crew that features free-agent free safety Erik Coleman, second-year right cornerback Chris Houston and free-agent left cornerback Von Hutchins. Hutchins ideally will play nickel back and the left corner vacancy caused when DeAngelo Hall was traded to Oakland could go to rookie Chevis Jackson.

Free safety Jimmy Williams, the Falcons' top pick in 2006 (second round) could have a problem making the roster. He has the physical tools to make some type of contribution but he has yet to prove to any coaching staff he's been with that he's ready to take the field.

RATING 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Falcons hope that 15-year veteran Jason Elam still has some punch left in his leg because the offense might not venture into the red zone too often. Punter Michael Koenen could be busier than he's ever been. Long snapper Mike Schneck is reliable. Atlanta will try to figure out who will return punts. Running back Jerious Norwood and possibly rookie running back Thomas Brown could return kickoffs.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

Atlanta has very little veteran leadership and a wealth of young players. Combined with a new coaching staff and new front-office leadership, the Falcons have a lot to overcome. If they can be competitive early in the season, they have a chance.

RATING: Even

—Steve Wyche

2007 RESULTS

Record: 4-12

Sep. 9	at Minnesota	3-24
Sep. 16	at Jacksonville	7-13
Sep. 23	CAROLINA	20-27
Sep. 30	HOUSTON	26-16
Oct. 7	at Tennessee	13-20
Oct. 15	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	10-31
Oct. 21	at New Orleans	16-22
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	SAN FRANCISCO	20-16
Nov. 11	at Carolina	20-13
Nov. 18	TAMPA BAY	7-31
Nov. 22	INDIANAPOLIS (Thu.)	13-31
Dec. 2	at St. Louis	16-28
Dec. 10	NEW ORLEANS (Mon.)	14-34
Dec. 16	at Tampa Bay	3-37
Dec. 23	at Arizona (OT)	27-30
Dec. 30	SEATTLE	44-41

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at Jacksonville (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 16	INDIANAPOLIS (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 22	TENNESSEE (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at Baltimore (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 7	DETROIT	1:00
Sep. 14	at Tampa Bay	4:05
Sep. 21	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Sep. 28	at Carolina	1:00
Oct. 5	at Green Bay	12:00
Oct. 12	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct. 19	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 26	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 2	at Oakland	1:15
Nov. 9	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Nov. 16	DENVER	1:00
Nov. 23	CAROLINA	1:00
Nov. 30	at San Diego	1:05
Dec. 7	at New Orleans	12:00
Dec. 14	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Dec. 21	at Minnesota	12:00
Dec. 28	ST. LOUIS	1:00

CAROLINA PANTHERS

2007 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Bank of America Stadium, 73,248, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

NFC SOUTH | www.panthers.com

AT A GLANCE

800 South Mint St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 358-7000

TRAINING CAMP:
Wofford College; Spartanburg, SC

COACH:
John Fox, 7th year with Panthers and as NFL head coach (56-47)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Marty Hurney

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Don Gregory

DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Mark Koncz

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Jeff Davidson	Offensive coordinator	14	2
David Magazu	Offensive line	6	6
Jim Skipper	*Running backs	21	7
Richard Williamson	Receivers	26	14
Geep Chryst	Tight ends/Off. Qual. Cont.	16	3
Mike McCoy	QBs/passing coordinator	9	9
Mike Trgovac	Defensive coordinator	14	7
Sal Sunseri	Defensive line	7	7
Ken Flajole	Linebackers	11	6
Tim Lewis	Secondary	14	2
Mike Gillhamer	Safeties	9	5
Sam Mills III	Def. quality control	3	3
Danny Crossman	Special teams	6	6
Matt House	Special teams asst./S&C	1	1
Jerry Simmons	Strength & Conditioning	21	10

*Assistant head coach

Delhomme Could Hold Key to Panthers' Season

The moment of truth has arrived for coach John Fox and general manager Marty Hurney. Although they have had two very successful seasons at Carolina, they have also missed the playoffs in four of the previous six years, including the last two.

The Panthers' two-man braintrust has decided that if they go down, they will go down swinging. They traded away their No.1 pick in 2009 to get a second No. 1 choice in 2008, which they used on jumbo offensive tackle Jeff Otah. They tried to upgrade their size, especially on the offensive line and at running back. They have been far more aggressive in free agency than in the past several years, both in signing new players and in addition by subtraction.

Carolina went 7-9 in 2007 and 8-8 in 2006, missing the playoffs both seasons. Owner Jerry Richardson is a fine man, but not a particularly patient one. If Fox and Hurney know what is good for their careers, they will return to the playoffs in 2008 or likely face some nasty consequences.

COACHING

Bill Cowher is living only 150 miles down the road in Raleigh, and there's speculation that Richardson would look there first if he ends up firing Fox. But Fox, now the Panthers' longest-tenured head coach, has a talent for survival and remains by far Carolina's most successful coach.

Fox loves to run the ball, stop the run, rush the passer with only his four defensive linemen, punt on fourth-and-one and wait for the other team to make a critical mistake. That conservative philosophy got him to the Super Bowl in 2003, when he had a viable power back in Stephen Davis, but hasn't worked well in most other years.

Fox deviated some from his core philosophy in 2007, but will try to return to a run-first game in 2008. He has emphasized making the offense better in the off-season — the Panthers were 27th in scoring and 29th in total offensive yardage in 2007.

RATING: 8

QUARTERBACKS

The Panthers' biggest question mark curls around Jake Delhomme's throwing elbow. Delhomme had Tommy John surgery after playing in only three games in 2007, but he still led the team in touchdown passes with eight. The fiery veteran was missed both in the locker room and in the huddle, as the Panthers never really recovered from the injury.

Although baseball pitchers often take two years to fully recover from the surgery, the prognosis for Delhomme has been consistently more optimistic

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Muhsin Muhammad

The "Moose" has lost a step, but he was never that fast to begin with. His value will be as a security blanket for Jake Delhomme, a fearsome blocker on running plays and a big target near the end zone.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DE/DT Tyler Brayton, OG Milford Brown, CB Ricardo Colclough, OG Toniu Fonoti, WR D.J. Hackett, S Terrence Holt, LB Landon Johnson, WR Muhsin Muhammad, DT Ian Scott, RB LaBrandon Toefield, OG Keydrick Vincent, DT Darwin Walker.

KEY LOSS:
DE Mike Rucker (16/16)*
Rucker played defensive end for the Panthers for nine years before retiring in April. A relentless worker who prided himself on wearing down opponents, his presence in the locker room will be missed.

OTHER LOSSES:
QB David Carr (6/4), WR Drew Carter (16/7), WR Keary Colbert (12/8), S Deke Cooper (16/15), CB Curtis Deloatch (6/0), TE Christian Fauria (15/4), RB DeShaun Foster (16/16), C Justin Hartwig (15/15), DT Kris Jenkins (16/15), S Marquand Manuel (16/2), LB Terence Melton (0/0), DT Kindal Moorehead (16/1), LB Dan Morgan (3/3), QB Vinny Testaverde (7/6), OG Mike Wahle (16/16)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
15; 7 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

— he's supposed to be ready for training camp. If he's healthy again in 2008, the Panthers will probably have a record of 2-3 games better than they will if he re-injures the elbow. He's the clear No. 1 — a decent thrower and a better leader.

If Delhomme can't go, Matt Moore will be the starter. A rookie undrafted free agent in 2007, Moore started the final three games of the season and went 2-1. He's comfortable rolling out, but his consistency needs work.

Third-stringer Brett Basanez is young, likable and inexperienced. The Panthers might sign another veteran for insurance.

RATING: 7.5

RUNNING BACKS

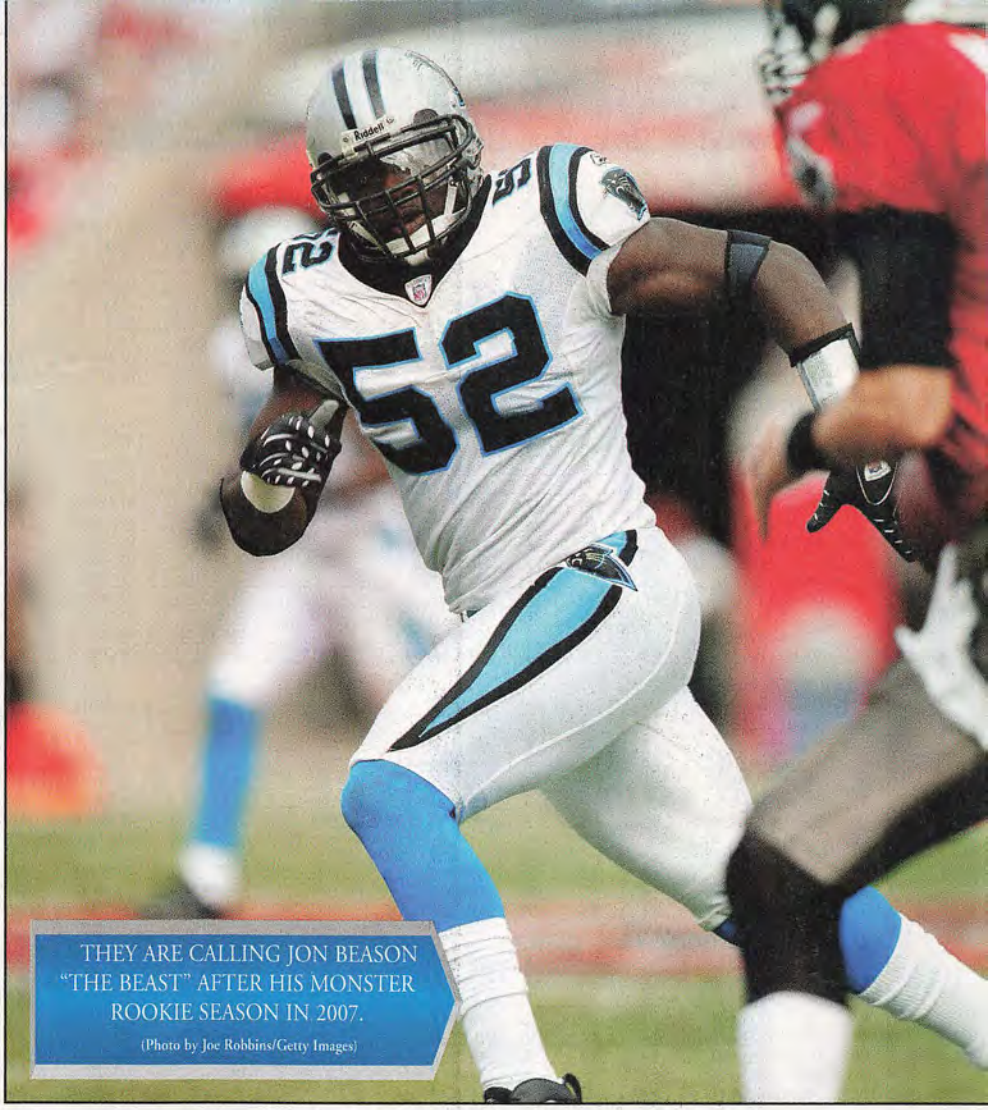
The Panthers decided they no longer needed their all-time leading rusher, DeShaun Foster. Foster had been a tease for six years. He would occasionally look great, but he never reached 900 rushing yards in a single season. Fox likes to use a two-back system and will alternate DeAngelo Williams and first-round draft choice Jonathan Stewart at tailback. Williams averaged 5.0 yards per carry and ran for 717 yards last season. Stewart was drafted in hopes of turning him into the next Stephen Davis — the Panthers haven't had anyone who could pick up a third-and-1 consistently since Davis left. Williams is more of a scatback.

Fullback Brad Hoover is a genial workaholic who never gets caught out of position. Nick Goings is a valuable utility man at halfback and fullback. LaBrandon Toefield might make some noise if Stewart's turf toe surgery doesn't heal by training camp.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

Steve Smith is the Panthers' best and most exciting offensive player — he has caught at least 80 balls for at least 1,000 yards in each of the past three seasons. But Smith was slightly less productive last season than usual because 1) Delhomme wasn't the one delivering the ball and 2) defenses concentrated on him even more than usual after realizing no other Panther could hurt them.



THEY ARE CALLING JON BEASON "THE BEAST" AFTER HIS MONSTER ROOKIE SEASON IN 2007.

(Photo by Joe Robbins/Getty Images)

The Panthers hope to change that this season. They let go of disappointing No. 2 and No. 3 wideouts Drew Carter and Keary Colbert in the off-season and signed D.J. Hackett and Muhsin Muhammad in their places. The big and physical Muhammad is well-known to Panthers fans from his previous stint. Hackett is more unfamiliar, but he's in the Muhammad mold (although younger and more injury-prone). Dwayne Jarrett, who had an extraordinarily unproductive rookie year, will try to grow up a little and might get some playing time if he has a good training camp.

Tight end Jeff King was Carolina's second-leading receiver last season (46 catches) and has proven to have good hands, but not much speed. Dante Rosario and fifth-round pick Gary Barnidge will also get some time.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

This unit was disappointing for almost all of last season and, not surprisingly, has undergone a major facelift. Rookie Jeff Otah will be immediately pushed into a starting role at right tackle. Center Ryan Kalil — undersized but with very good feet — takes over that job for Justin Hartwig. Jordan Gross, the Panthers' best lineman, switches back to left tackle to protect Delhomme's blind side.

Travelle Wharton leaves left tackle — where he just wasn't athletic enough to match up with the NFL's best pass rushers — to his more natural position at left guard. At right guard, either Jeremy Bridges or Keydrick Vincent will likely start. Still, this group is a definite question mark.

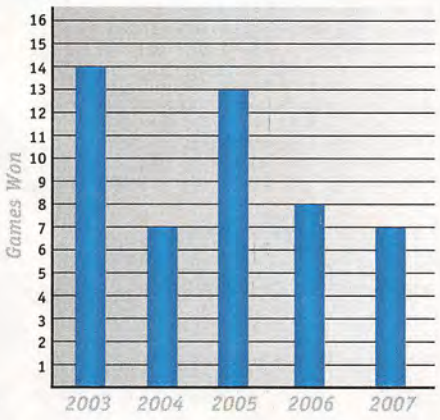
RATING: 6.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Where has Julius Peppers gone?

That was the question for all of 2007, when Peppers recorded an embarrassingly low 2.5 sacks. Peppers will have to be much better in 2008 for this unit to make any sort of splash. The Panthers are already thin because they have lost two valuable starters from last season — Mike Rucker (retirement) and Kris Jenkins (trade). Now they have to figure out what to do at right end, where Peppers might play. If not, Charles Johnson probably holds a slight edge over Stanley McClover and veteran pickup Tyler Brayton entering training camp. Their defensive tackles appear set in a veteran-heavy, four-

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2005*

Panthers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
82	Barnidge, Gary (TE)	6-6	247	R	Louisville	0/0	D5 08	D5 CARO 08	Good speed for a tight end; will help that he played in Cards' pro-style offense.
11	Carter, Jason	6-0	205	2	Texas A&M	0/0	FA 07	CFA MINN 06	Not best surname for a receiver due to underperforming (and now departed) Drew.
12	*Davis, Josh	6-1	188	1	Marshall	0/0	FA 07	CFA MIA 05	Appendectomy short-circuited 2007 season for Marshall's all-time leading receiver.
18	**Hackett, D.J.**	**6-2**	**208**	**5**	**Colorado**	**6/6**	**UFA,SEA 08**	**D5 SEA 04**	**If Panthers can keep him healthy, he's odds-on favorite to start alongside Smith.**
80	Jarrett, Dwayne	6-4	219	2	Southern Cal	7/0	D2 07	D2 CARO 07	Disappointing rookie year (six catches), but Panthers haven't lost hope.
47	**King, Jeff (TE)**	**6-3**	**260**	**3**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/16**	**D5 06**	**D5 CARO 06**	**His stats in 2007 were best for a Panther tight end since Wesley Walls in 2001.**
87	Muhammad, Muhsin	6-2	215	13	Michigan State	16/16	FA 08	D2 CARO 96	After his sabbatical in Chicago, Moose returns home as sentimental favorite.
10	Robinson, Ryne (KR)	5-9	179	2	Miami, Ohio	16/0	D4 07	D4 CARO 07	Tiniest receiver on roster needs to be a better kick returner in second season.
88	Rosario, Dante (TE)	6-4	250	2	Oregon	16/2	D5 07	D5 CARO 07	Only caught six passes as a rookie, but two were for touchdowns.
89	**Smith, Steve**	**5-9**	**185**	**8**	**Utah**	**15/15**	**D3 01**	**D3 CARO 01**	**If Panthers can just get him some help, should be a Pro Bowler again.**
19	Taylor, Travis	6-1	210	9	Florida	2/0	FA 07	D1 BLT 00	Former first-round pick will try to earn some time on a crowded roster.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
65	Bernadeau, Mackenzy (G)	6-4	308	R	Bentley	0/0	D7 08	D7 CARO 08	Division II All-American was first player from Bentley to be drafted.
73	Bridges, Jeremy (T)	6-4	326	6	Southern Mississippi	13/10	FA 06	D6 PHA 03	Started at guard last season, but may be a backup tackle now.
61	Brown, Milford (G)	6-5	330	7	Florida State	16/15	UFA,STL 08	SD7 HOUS 03	One of a beefy trio (Fonoti, Vincent) of vet guards signed in off-season.
77	Fonoti, Toniu (G)	6-4	350	6	Nebraska	0/0	FA 08	D2 SD 02	Heaviest player on the team will be counted on to strengthen line.
69	**Gross, Jordan (T)**	**6-4**	**300**	**6**	**Utah**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 CARO 03**	**Picked up franchise tag in off-season after team couldn't sign him long-term.**
63	Hangartner, Geoff (C/G)	6-5	301	4	Texas A&M	16/4	D5 05	D5 CARO 05	Will be the backup center to Kalil, but can also swing to guard.
67	**Kalil, Ryan (C)**	**6-2**	**295**	**2**	**Southern Cal**	**6/3**	**D2 07**	**D2 CARO 07**	**Lightest lineman on team will have much to prove in first year as starter.**
71	Mathis, Evan (G)	6-5	304	4	Alabama	1/0	D3 05	D3 CARO 05	On this guard-heavy roster, Mathis needs a good camp for security.
76	Omiyale, Frank (T)	6-4	310	4	Tennessee Tech	0/0	W,ATL 07	D5 ATL 05	Was inactive for 16 straight games in '07, but at least he knows the system.
79	**Otah, Jeff (T)**	**6-6**	**324**	**R**	**Pittsburgh**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 CARO 08**	**Will be counted on as a road-grader for a running game that must improve.**
74	Schwartz, Geoff (T)	6-6	331	R	Oregon	0/0	D7 08	D7 CARO 08	Blocked for new running back Stewart in college; very big but not very quick.
68	**Vincent, Keydrick (G)**	**6-5**	**325**	**8**	**Mississippi**	**8/1**	**UFA,ARZ 08**	**CFA PITT 01**	**May have a leg up on starting right guard position, but it will be a dogfight.**
70	**Wharton, Travelle (G)**	**6-4**	**312**	**5**	**South Carolina**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 CARO 04**	**By drafting Otah, Panthers can probably move him to more natural guard spot.**
RUNNING BACKS									
32	Fleming, Troy (FB)	6-0	245	3	Tennessee	0/0	FA 08	D6 TENN 04	Has a chance because he's only true backup fullback on roster.
37	*Goings, Nick	6-0	225	8	Pittsburgh	4/0	CFA 01	CFA CARO 01	Utility back a Fox favorite due to work ethic, special-teams duty.
24	Haynes, Alex	5-10	225	2	Central Florida	10/0	FA 07	CFA BLT 05	Will need a good preseason to stick around at a crowded spot.
45	**Hoover, Brad (FB)**	**6-0**	**245**	**9**	**Western Carolina**	**16/12**	**CFA 00**	**CFA CARO 00**	**A genial battering ram who is used mostly as a third guard.**
29	Stewart, Jonathan	5-10	235	R	Oregon	0/0	D1 08	D1 CARO 08	Panthers drafted him to be the next Stephen Davis: Can he deliver?
33	Toefield, LaBrandon	5-11	235	6	Louisiana State	2/1	UFA,JAX 08	D4 JAX 03	Had better chance to make a serious impact before Panthers drafted Stewart.
34	**Williams, DeAngelo**	**5-9**	**217**	**3**	**Memphis**	**16/0**	**D1 06**	**D1 CARO 06**	**Occasional game-breaker will have real chance to shine in third season.**
QUARTERBACKS									
14	*Basaniez, Brett	6-2	210	2	Northwestern	0/0	FA 06	CFA CARO 06	Missed golden chance to start in '07 because he was on injured reserve.
17	***Delhomme, Jake**	**6-2**	**215**	**9**	**Southwestern Louisiana**	**3/3**	**UFA,NO 03**	**CFA NO 97**	**A true leader whose health may determine the course of 2008 season.**
3	Moore, Matt	6-3	202	2	Oregon State	9/3	W,DALL 07	CFA DALL 07	Confident, inconsistent and best at throwing when he's on the move.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
96	**Brayton, Tyler (E)**	**6-6**	**280**	**6**	**Colorado**	**16/0**	**FA 08**	**D1 OAK 03**	**Former No.1 pick gets a chance to revive career, possibly as starter.**
91	Gibson, Gary (T)	6-3	285	3	Rutgers	1/0	FA 08	CFA BLT 05	A good practice player who Panthers would like to keep around if possible.
78	Hayden, Nick (T)	6-4	292	R	Wisconsin	0/0	D6 08	D6 CARO 08	A "blue-collar, hard worker, country boy" according to head Panthers' scout.
95	Johnson, Charles (E)	6-2	270	2	Georgia	3/2	D3 07	D3 CARO 07	After unimpressive rookie season, still looking for first NFL sack.
99	**Kemoeatu, Maake (NT)**	**6-5**	**345**	**7**	**Utah**	**16/13**	**UFA,BLT 06**	**CFA BLT 02**	**A run-stuffer only: Comes out in most third-and-long situations.**
92	**Lewis, Damione (T)**	**6-2**	**301**	**8**	**Miami**	**15/2**	**UFA,STL 06**	**D1 STL 01**	**Decent inside pass-rush ability for this likely starter.**
75	McClover, Stanley (E)	6-2	263	3	Auburn	11/0	D7 06	D7 CARO 06	Good energy level, but gives up 50 pounds to many tackles.
90	***Peppers, Julius (E)**	**6-7**	**283**	**7**	**North Carolina**	**14/14**	**D1 02**	**D1 CARO 02**	**After awful 2007 (2.5 sacks), may be moved to right end to shake things up.**
94	*Scott, Ian (T)	6-3	302	6	Florida	0/0	UFA,PHA 08	D4 CHI 03	Once started in a Super Bowl for Bears; should be part of rotation.
66	Taylor, Hilee (E)	6-2	244	R	North Carolina	0/0	D7 08	D7 CARO 08	Very fast and undersized for an end; switch to linebacker might occur.
93	Walker, Darwin (T)	6-3	294	9	Tennessee	11/7	FA 08	D3 ARIZ 00	Has posted six or more sacks in three different NFL seasons.
98	Williams, Stephen (T)	6-2	306	2	Northwest Missouri State	0/0	FA 08	CFA KC 06	Probably camp filler unless he comes through with great preseason.
LINEBACKERS									
50	Anderson, James (O)	6-2	235	3	Virginia Tech	10/1	D3 06	D3 CARO 06	In two seasons, really hasn't made much of an impact.
52	**Beason, Jon (M)**	**6-0**	**237**	**2**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 CARO 07**	**The defense's fast-rising star had minor wrist surgery in May.**
44	Connor, Dan	6-2	231	R	Penn State	0/0	D3 08	D3 CARO 08	Latest great linebacker to come out of "Linebacker U" too good to pass up in draft.
55	Curry, Donte' (O)	6-1	240	8	Morris Brown	9/0	FA 07	CFA DET 01	Fourth on squad in special-teams tackles in '07.
58	**Davis, Thomas (O)**	**6-0**	**240**	**4**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 CARO 05**	**Might be ready for a breakout season on the strong side.**
53	Diggs, Na'il (O)	6-4	240	9	Ohio State	16/9	FA 06	D4 GB 00	Veteran will be in a tight battle with Landon Johnson for weak-side linebacker job
57	Jamison, Brandon (O)	6-1	232	3	West Georgia	15/0	W,ATL 06	CFA ATL 06	Will face an uphill fight to make team at its most loaded defensive position.
54	**Johnson, Landon (M)**	**6-2**	**232**	**5**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 08**	**D3 CIN 04**	**Panthers are hoping former Bengal solidifies the linebacking corps**
59	Seward, Adam (M)	6-2	248	4	Nevada-Las Vegas	11/0	D5 05	D5 CARO 05	Will back up Beason in the middle (although Connor can do that too).
97	Shaw, Tim (M)	6-1	236	2	Penn State	14/0	D5 07	D5 CARO 07	Second in special-teams tackles in '07; he'll make the team because of that.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
22	Colclough, Ricardo (CB)	5-11	195	5	Tusculum	3/0	UFA,CLV 08	D2 PITT 04	Signed more to be competition as a kick returner than a factor in secondary.
20	**Gamble, Chris (CB)**	**6-1**	**200**	**5**	**Ohio State**	**15/12**	**D1 04**	**D1 CARO 04**	**Most athletic DB Panthers have, but only had one pick in '07.**
30	**Godfrey, Charles (S)**	**5-11**	**205**	**R**	**Iowa**	**0/0**	**D3 08**	**D3 CARO 08**	**Former college cornerback will bring good cover skills and likely will start.**
43	**Harris, Chris (S)**	**6-0**	**205**	**4**	**Louisiana-Monroe**	**15/15**	**T,CHI 07**	**D6 CHI 05**	**Kamikaze hitter was first in NFL in 2007 with eight forced fumbles.**
42	Holt, Terrence (S)	6-2	208	6	North Carolina State	16/16	FA 08	D5 DET 03	Torry's younger brother has a shot at beating Godfrey out to start at free safety.
21	Lucas, Ken (CB)	6-0	205	8	Mississippi	16/16	UFA,SEA 05	D2 SEA 01	Not great in run support, but has some fine natural cover skills.
31	**Marshall, Richard (CB)**	**5-11**	**189**	**3**	**Fresno State**	**16/6**	**D2 06**	**D2 CARO 06**	**Valuable both as a cornerback, special-teamer – a "real football player," Fox says.**
25	*Salley, Nate (S)	6-1	216	3	Ohio State	0/0	D4 06	D4 CARO 06	Rangy safety coming from behind after being on injured reserve all of 2007.
28	Teal, Quinton (S)	6-1	187	2	Coastal Carolina	15/1	CFA 07	CFA CARO 07	Made team as undrafted rookie free agent in 2007; a pleasant surprise.
23	*Wesley, Dante (CB)	6-1	210	7	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	2/0	FA 07	D4 CARO 02	Shoulder injury wrecked his '07 season, but he's got some skills.
27	Wilson, C.J. (S)	6-1	195	2	Baylor	4/0	D7 07	D7 CARO 07	A little bit light for a safety; will need to contribute as special-teamer.
SPECIALISTS									
7	Baker, Jason (P)	6-2	205	8	Iowa	16/0	T,DEN 05	CFA PHA 01	Steady, underrated punter also serves as Kasay's consistent holder.
4	Kasay, John (K)	5-10	210	18	Georgia	16/0	UFA,SEA 95	D4 SEA 91	The last original Panther is still clutch; he went 24-for-28 in '07.
56	Kyle, Jason (LS)	6-3	242	14	Arizona State	16/0	UFA,SF 01	D4 SEA 95	Team's NFL player representative is automatic on all snaps.
5	Lloyd, Rhys (K)	5-11	231	2	Minnesota	3/0	W,BLT 07	CFA BLT 05	Kasay's heir apparent will probably handle all kickoffs this season.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; FFA=Franchise Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Chris Hannon (1, Tennessee), Damon Morton (Colorado State), Dominique Thompson (1, William & Mary); TEs Chris Conklin (Wingate), Chad Upshaw (1/Wv.DEN, Buffalo); OT Rueben Riley (1, Michigan); OG Eric Tunney (Central Michigan); QB Taylor Tharp (Boise State); RB DeCori Birmingham (1, Arkansas); FB Breyone Evans; DEs Casper Brinkley (South Carolina), Anthony Harris (Western New Mexico); DT Brandon Jenkins (Mississippi); CBs Cortney Grixby (Nebraska), Darren Toney (Arkansas State); S Joe Fields (Syracuse); P Dan Zeidman (Idaho State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Home-field disadvantage. The Panthers simply have to be better in Charlotte this season. They are only 24-24 in Fox's six seasons at home (including 2-6 in 2007). At least a showy new scoreboard can distract fans if they start losing at home again.
2. 89 and 90. Because of their numbers, Steve Smith and Julius Peppers always stand next together in the team picture. Because of their talent, those two standouts will have more to do with how the Panthers fare this season than anyone except Jake Delhomme.
3. The Beast. There's an old NFL axiom that says many players make their biggest improvements between the first year of their career and the second. If that's the case for spectacularly fast middle linebacker Jon Beason - the highlight of the desultory 2007 season -- watch out.

ON THE HOT SEAT

DeAngelo Williams

DeAngelo Williams had an interesting off-season.

First, he thought the Panthers might be ready to make him their featured back when they fired DeShaun Foster — the starter during Williams' first two years at Carolina. Then, he saw Carolina replace Foster with what may be an even bigger threat to Williams' payload — No.1 draft choice Jonathan Stewart out of Oregon.

The Panthers envision Stewart as the power back they have lacked since Stephen Davis got old in a hurry.

Where does that leave Williams? For now, the former Memphis star may well be the starter in John Fox's two-back system. Williams' numbers were nothing to sneeze at in 2007. He averaged 5.0 per carry and gained 717 yards, including rushes of 32, 35, 39 and 75 yards. Williams has a great burst, but the Panthers think his relatively small size (5-9, 217) may mean that he can't take the pounding of 20 carries per game.

Williams thinks he could do that, and he will have a leg up on Stewart early. Not only will Stewart be trying to learn the playbook, he'll also be recovering from turf toe surgery in March. But will Williams be able to keep that advantage throughout 2008?

man rotation of Maake Kemoeatu and Damione Lewis as the starters and Ian Scott and Darwin Walker as the backups.

RATING: 6.5

LINEBACKERS

The Panthers are loaded here. Middle linebacker Jon Beason had the sort of year that all rookies dream about in 2007, setting a Panther team record with 160 total tackles.

Beason will be joined on the strong side by Thomas Davis, an explosive hitter who has a knack for blitzing. Like Beason, he's also very fast, but still needs that skill to translate into more big plays.

Weak-side linebacker will be quite a contest — incumbent Na'il Diggs, free-agent pickup Landon Johnson (who came from Cincinnati) and rookie third-round pick Dan Connor out of Penn State all have a chance at the starting job.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

Much depends on how third-round pick Charles Godfrey develops. If he does so quickly, Carolina would like to start him at free safety, where the former college cornerback will give them some speed and coverage skills they have lacked.

Carolina has three good cornerbacks in Chris Gamble, Ken Lucas and Richard Marshall. Gamble is the most athletic of the three, but that doesn't always translate into interceptions (only one in 2007). Marshall is valuable as a special-teamer as well. All three will play a lot, with Lucas more likely to settle into the role of third corner.

Strong safety Chris Harris is a kamikaze hitter who forced eight fumbles last season, but doesn't have great coverage skills. Free-agent pickup Terrence Holt will provide good depth.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker John Kasay has lost a little leg strength, but is still as clutch as ever, which is why he will return for his 18th NFL season. The Panthers may keep two kickers, using Rhys Lloyd for kickoffs only and keeping him around as Kasay's heir apparent.

Punter Jason Baker is very steady and a real asset. Ditto for long snapper Jason Kyle. At punt and kickoff returner, Ryne Robinson looked lost for the first part of 2007, but far more confident in December. If he can't do the job, the Panthers signed Ricardo Colclough as an alternative.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

The Panthers haven't had much success for the past two years and will play with an air of desperation this season. If Delhomme stays healthy, he will also breathe a lot of fire and brimstone into the locker room.

RATING: Plus 2

— Scott Fowler

2007 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 9	at St. Louis	27-13
Sep. 16	HOUSTON	21-34
Sep. 23	at Atlanta	27-20
Sep. 30	TAMPA BAY	7-20
Oct. 7	at New Orleans	16-13
Oct. 14	at Arizona	25-10
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	INDIANAPOLIS	7-31
Nov. 4	at Tennessee	7-20
Nov. 11	ATLANTA	13-20
Nov. 18	at Green Bay	17-31
Nov. 25	NEW ORLEANS	6-31
Dec. 2	SAN FRANCISCO	31-14
Dec. 9	at Jacksonville	6-37
Dec. 16	SEATTLE	13-10
Dec. 22	DALLAS (Sat.)	13-20
Dec. 30	at Tampa Bay	31-23

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	INDIANAPOLIS (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 14	at Philadelphia (Thu.)	8:00
Aug. 23	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at Pittsburgh (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 7	at San Diego	1:15
Sep. 14	CHICAGO	1:00
Sep. 21	at Minnesota	12:00
Sep. 28	ATLANTA	1:00
Oct. 5	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Oct. 12	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Oct. 19	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct. 26	ARIZONA	1:00
Nov. 2	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 9	at Oakland	1:05
Nov. 16	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 23	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 30	at Green Bay	12:00
Dec. 8	TAMPA BAY (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 14	DENVER	1:00
Dec. 21	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Dec. 28	at New Orleans	12:00

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

2007 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Louisiana Superdome, 68,000, Momentum SportsExe | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC SOUTH | www.neworleanssaints.com

AT A GLANCE

5800 Airline Highway
Metairie, LA 70003
(504) 733-0255

TRAINING CAMP:
Millsaps College, Jackson, MS

COACH:
Sean Payton, 3rd year with Saints and as NFL head coach (18-16)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER:
Mickey Loomis

VICE PRESIDENT OF PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Rick Mueller

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Rick Reiprish

PRO SCOUTING DIRECTOR:
Ryan Pace

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Doug Marrone	Offensive coordinator/line	7	3
Pete Carmichael Jr.	Quarterbacks/passing game	9	3
Aaron Kromer	Running backs	8	1
Curtis Johnson	Receivers	3	3
Terry Malone	Tight ends	3	3
Joe Lombardi	Offensive assistant	3	2
Gary Gibbs	Defensive coordinator	7	3
Ed Orgeron	Defensive line	1	1
Travis Jones	Asst. defensive line	4	1
Joe Vitt	*Linebackers	30	3
Dennis Allen	Secondary	7	3
Tony Oden	Def. assistant/secondary	5	3
Greg McMahon	Special teams coordinator	3	3
Mike Mallory	Asst. special teams	1	1
Dan Dalrymple	Strength & Conditioning	3	3
Adam Bailey	Strength & Conditioning	4	4

*Assistant head coach

Saints Search for Fast Start After Disappointing 2007

If anyone thinks the Saints sat around feeling sorry for themselves after failing to make the playoffs in 2007, despite a late-season surge that came up just short, they're terribly mistaken.

While they returned nearly every starter from the 2006 team that finished one game shy of Super Bowl XLI, the Saints started 2007 with four straight losses — making the remainder of the campaign an uphill fight. In the end, they couldn't climb all the way out of the huge hole and finished 7-9.

Instead of looking at it as a bad thing, however, coach Sean Payton used it as a positive going forward into the off-season. His spin: as painful as it was at the time, his team will be better for the experience.

"The proof is in the pudding," said Payton, the NFL's Coach of the Year in 2006. "The only thing you can look at is the fact that the record was 7-9 and not what we wanted."

Looking back, the Saints know they have no one to blame but themselves. They scrambled to get back in the playoff race and got to 4-4 and later 7-7 before running out of gas.

"I think the one lesson learned was it's hard to get behind the eight-ball and start slow," Payton noted. "When you start 0-4, you've really changed the odds for your team.

"Even when we got to 4-4 and won four in a row, you feel you've expended so much energy. We never could quite get past that .500 mark. I think the players understand that more coming off last season. We never could get over the hump."

But 2008 is a new year. The Saints have spent a lot of time and energy in free agency and the draft to upgrade the 26th-ranked defense, so any kind of help they can give the NFL's fourth-ranked offense could get them in the playoff hunt again.

COACHING

Payton did everything he could to push the right buttons last season, but he seemed to use up all his magic a year earlier as injuries, a porous defense and grueling four-game stretch to open the season did his team in.

As a result, Payton is more determined to get his team back in the playoffs after coming so close to the Super Bowl in his first season.

Not one to sit still, he retooled his defense and also tweaked his coaching staff, moving assistant defensive line coach Dennis Allen to the secondary and adding former Ole Miss coach Ed Orgeron as the defensive line coach. Also, Aaron Kromer was brought in to coach the running backs.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Drew Brees had a second straight monster sea-

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
MLB Jonathan Vilma

The Saints have needed a dominating middle linebacker for years. Vilma, the 2004 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, certainly fits the bill. He should give an underachieving defense some athleticism and playmaking ability.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
QB Mark Brunell, CB Randall Gay, CB Aaron Glenn, C/G Matt Lehr, DE Bobby McCray, LB Dan Morgan

KEY LOSS:
C Jeff Faine (14/14)*
Faine anchored a line that allowed just 39 sacks in 1,271 pass plays the last two years. A solid run blocker, he'll be replaced by Jonathan Goodwin, who played well filling in last season.

OTHER LOSSES:
S Jay Bellamy (3/0), Steve Gleason (0/0), PK Olindo Mare (13/0), QB Jamie Martin (3/0), LB Matt McCoy (4/0), LB Brian Simmons (16/3), CB Fred Thomas (7/0), DL Renaldo Wynn (12/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
21; 10 offense, 11 defense, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

son, setting club records for passing yards (4,423), touchdowns (28), attempts (652), completions (440) and completion percentage (67.5).

He set an NFL record with those 440 completions and helped the Saints finish third in passing yards. Brees did that despite a slow start in which he threw one touchdown and nine interceptions in the first four games. Over the next 10 games, he had 24 touchdowns and six interceptions.

This season, Brees will be backed up by Mark Brunell, who replaces Jamie Martin on the roster. Tyler Palko will likely be the third quarterback again.

RATING: 9

RUNNING BACKS

This is one of the biggest question marks on the team, mainly because four-time 1,000-yard rusher Deuce McAllister is coming off double knee surgery.

Whether he can return to form after his second ACL surgery in less than two years is the question. McAllister's work ethic has never been questioned, but he'll turn 30 at the end of the year — which makes things tougher.

After McAllister was lost for the year in Week 3, Reggie Bush became a marked man. Defenses loaded up to stop him and the Saints wound up averaging just 91.6 yards a game and ranked 28th in the league.

Aaron Stecker and rookie Pierre Thomas filled in nicely when Bush, who had a team-high 581 rushing yards, missed the final four games with a knee injury. They will be counted on again to provide support in spot roles, while fullback Mike Karney leads the way with his blocking.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

Like Brees, second-year pro Marques Colston turned in another big season as he continued to make a name for himself as one of the league's elite receivers.

Colston had 1,202 receiving yards and 11 touchdowns and ranked second in the NFC with 98 receptions. The former seventh-round draft pick now has 168 career catches, the most by a player in his first two NFL seasons.

Veteran David Patten had a nice season and wound up as the No. 2 receiver with 54 catches for 792 yards. But he may be challenged by 2007 first-round draft pick Robert Meachem, who was inactive for all 16 games after hurting his knee before training camp.

Devery Henderson was too inconsistent because of drops and Lance Moore was serviceable, but they and Terrance Copper will have to do better if Meachem comes on.

Tight end Mark Campbell returns from a back injury and the Saints also brought back Eric Johnson and Billy Miller, who combined for 75 catches and four touchdowns.

RATING: 7.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

After giving up just 23 sacks in 2006, the Saints did even better in '07. They gave up a league-low 16 sacks — which means they've allowed 39 sacks in 1,271 pass plays the last two seasons.

The group returns nearly intact although center Jeff Faine left to sign with Tampa Bay. He'll be replaced by Jonathan Goodwin, who was solid last season when Faine missed two games with an injury.

Tackles Jammal Brown and Jon Stinchcomb also return, along with guards Jamar Nesbit and Jahri Evans, a mauler at right guard.

The Saints added a veteran backup in guard/center Matt Lehr, while young tackles Zach Strief and Jermon Bushrod and guard Andy Alleman are being groomed for the future.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

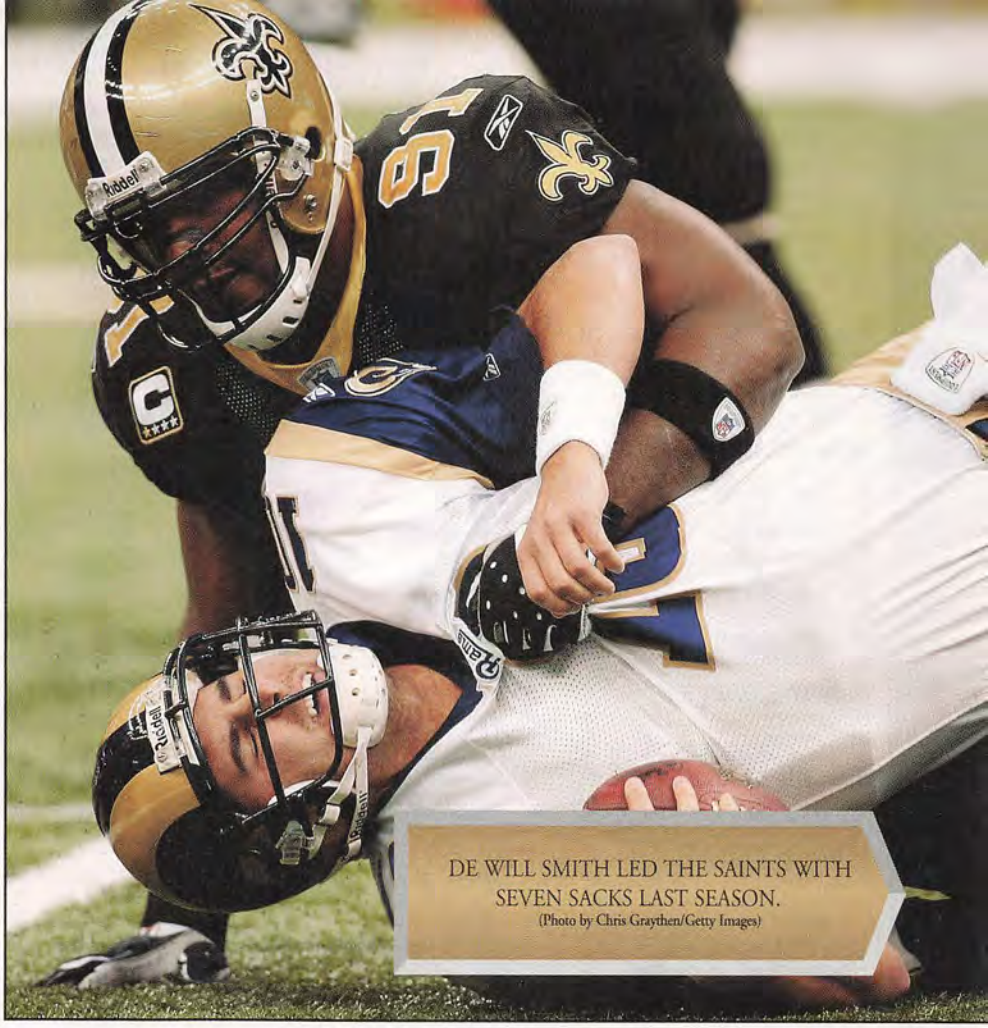
The Saints made some off-season moves to help pass-rushing ends Will Smith and Charles Grant affect the quarterback more this season.

Smith had seven sacks and Grant recorded only 2.5 after being hampered the second half of the season by ligament damage in his ankle. So the Saints added veteran pass-rusher Bobby McCray to the mix.

Smith, Grant and tackles Brian Young and Hollis Thomas, their main run-stopper, were strong against the run in allowing 102.9 yards a game. But the Saints traded up in the first round of the draft to add more size and strength with tackle Sedrick Ellis.

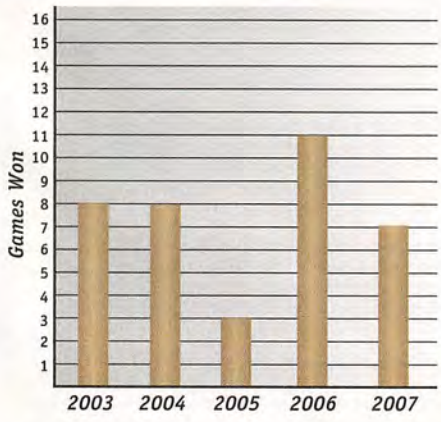
Tackles Antwan Lake and Kendrick Clancy and end Josh Cooper are other members of the rotation.

RATING: 7.5



DE WILL SMITH LED THE SAINTS WITH SEVEN SACKS LAST SEASON.
(Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2006*

Saints Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
87	Arrington, Adrian	6-3	192	R	Michigan	0/0	D7 08	D7 NO 08	Rangy seventh-round draft pick could challenge for a roster spot.
80	*Campbell, Mark (TE)	6-6	260	10	Michigan	0/0	FA 06	CFA CLV 99	Missed all of '07 with a back injury, but is a steady blocker, receiver.
12	**Colston, Marques**	**6-4**	**225**	**3**	**Hofstra**	**16/14**	**D7 06**	**D7 NO 06**	**Seventh-round draft pick in '06 has 168 catches, 19 TDs in two seasons.**
18	Copper, Terrance	6-0	207	5	East Carolina	15/1	W,DALL 06	CFA DALL 04	Versatile receiver has filled various roles since joining team in 2006.
85	Ghent, Ronnie (TE)	6-2	253	2	Louisville	8/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 04	Was active for final eight games after being picked up in training camp.
10	Green, Skyler (KR)	5-9	190	3	Louisiana State	7/0	FA 08	D4 DALL 06	Speedy receiver will try to upgrade return game with his hometown team.
19	Henderson, Devery	5-11	200	5	Louisiana State	16/9	D2 04	D2 NO 04	Was brought back even though he continues to be inconsistent with drops.
82	**Johnson, Eric (TE)**	**6-3**	**252**	**8**	**Yale**	**14/12**	**UFA,SF 07**	**D7 SF 01**	**Gave the Saints a consistent threat over the middle before being injured.**
17	Meachem, Robert	6-2	210	2	Tennessee	0/0	D1 07	D1 NO 07	No. 1 pick in '07 has something to prove after injury ruined rookie year.
83	Miller, Billy (TE)	6-3	252	9	Southern Cal	16/6	FA 06	D7 DEN 99	Has proven to be a valuable blocker and receiver when he gets a chance.
16	Moore, Lance	5-9	190	3	Toledo	16/4	FA 07	CFA CLV 05	Scrappy player had 32 catches, but wasn't much of a factor as returner.
81	**Patten, David**	**5-10**	**190**	**12**	**Western Carolina**	**16/5**	**FA 07**	**CFA NYG 97**	**Found a home with Saints at 33 and caught 54 passes for 792 yards, three touchdowns.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
65	Alleman, Andy (G)	6-4	310	2	Akron	0/0	D3 07	D3 NO 07	Youngster was active for just one game in 2007 while learning the ropes.
70	**Brown, Jammal (T)**	**6-6**	**313**	**4**	**Oklahoma**	**15/15**	**D1 05**	**D1 NO 05**	**Slowed by leg injuries last year, he still was effective protecting Brees.**
74	Bushrod, Jermon (T)	6-5	315	2	Towson	1/0	D4 07	D4 NO 07	A fourth-round draft pick in 2007, he's being groomed for the future.
73	**Evans, Jahri (G)**	**6-4**	**318**	**3**	**Bloomsburg State**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 NO 06**	**Dominant blocker has made 32 consecutive starts since being drafted.**
76	**Goodwin, Jonathan (C/G)**	**6-3**	**318**	**7**	**Michigan**	**13/2**	**UFA,NYJ 06**	**D5 NYJ 02**	**After filling in nicely last season, gets a chance to replace Jeff Faine.**
68	Lehr, Matt (G/C	6-2	290	8	Virginia Tech	16/0	UFA,TB 08	D5 DALL 01	Eight-year vet is experienced backup and could challenge for center job.
67	**Nesbit, Jamar (G/T)**	**6-4**	**328**	**10**	**South Carolina**	**16/16**	**UFA,JAX 04**	**CFA CARO 99**	**An integral part of a line that has allowed just 39 sacks in two seasons.**
77	Nicks, Carl (T)	6-5	343	R	Nebraska	0/0	D5 08	D5 NO 08	Massive fifth-round draft pick will get shot to learn system this season.
78	**Stinchcomb, Jon (T)**	**6-5**	**315**	**6**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D2 03**	**D2 NO 03**	**Two-year starter has been steady, if not spectacular since winning job.**
64	Strief, Zach (T)	6-7	320	3	Northwestern	16/1	D7 06	D7 NO 06	Has been a backup for two years, but has impressed when given a chance.
RUNNING BACKS									
24	Barclay, Chris	5-10	180	1	Wake Forest	5/0	W,TENN 07	CFA CLV 06	Late-season pickup will have hard time this year in a crowded backfield.
25	Bush, Reggie	6-0	203	3	Southern Cal	12/10	D1 06	D1 NO 06	Hampered by leg injuries in 2007, he's aiming to return to rookie form.
44	**Karney, Mike (FB)**	**5-11**	**255**	**5**	**Arizona State**	**16/9**	**D5 04**	**D5 NO 04**	**Continues to be a key member of the offense with his blocking ability.**
26	***McAllister, Deuce**	**6-1**	**232**	**8**	**Mississippi**	**3/3**	**D1 01**	**D1 NO 01**	**Can he be the same runner after double-knee surgery in late September?**
27	Stecker, Aaron	5-10	213	9	Western Illinois	16/6	UFA,TB 04	CFA CHI 99	Versatile and handy back with experience; also excels on special teams.
23	Thomas, Pierre	5-11	215	2	Illinois	12/1	CFA 07	CFA NO 07	Made the team as an undrafted rookie and showed flashes of ability.
QUARTERBACKS									
9	**Brees, Drew**	**6-0**	**209**	**8**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**UFA,SD 06**	**D2 SD 01**	**Has thrown for 8,841 yards and 54 TDs in back-to-back monster seasons.**
11	Brunell, Mark	6-1	217	16	Washington	0/0	UFA,WSH 08	D5 GB 93	Veteran lefty will give Saints more peace of mind should Brees go down.
6	Ostrander, T.C.	6-3	215	R	Stanford	0/0	CFA 08	CFA NO 08	Sean Payton likes to develop young QBs, so he could battle Palko.
3	Palko, Tyler	6-1	215	1	Pittsburgh	0/0	FA 07	CFA NO 07	Free agent in 2007 bounced between the active roster and practice squad.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	Clancy, Kendrick (T)	6-1	305	9	Mississippi	14/2	FA 07	D3 PITT 00	Veteran player was an important part of the rotation when healthy.
90	Ellis, Sedrick (T)	6-1	307	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D1 08	D1 NO 08	First-round draft pick should be able to help against the run and pass.
94	**Grant, Charles (E)**	**6-3**	**285**	**7**	**Georgia**	**14/14**	**D1 02**	**D1 NO 02**	**Had only 2.5 sacks last year while playing with torn ankle ligaments.**
92	Harris, Orien (E)	6-3	300	1	Miami	0/0	FA 07	D4 PITT 06	Was inactive for two games after being picked up late in the season.
96	Lake, Antwan (T)	6-4	308	6	West Virginia	15/7	W,ATL 06	CFA DET 02	Another veteran backup who brings quality snaps when called upon.
93	McCray, Bobby (E)	6-6	260	5	Florida	14/9	UFA,JAX 08	D7 JAX 04	Should help with pass rush after getting 10 sacks with Jags in '06.
72	Pressley, DeMario (T)	6-3	301	R	North Carolina State	0/0	D5 08	D5 NO 08	Was grabbed in the fifth round after an injury-filled college career.
95	Savage, Josh (E)	6-4	276	3	Utah	1/0	FA 08	CFA TB 04	Practice squad player who saw action in just one late-season game.
91	**Smith, Will (E)**	**6-3**	**282**	**5**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 NO 04**	**Saints' most productive pass rusher has 33.5 sacks in last four seasons.**
99	**Thomas, Hollis (T)**	**6-0**	**335**	**13**	**Northern Illinois**	**16/14**	**T,PHA 06**	**CFA PHA 96**	**Has battled weight problems, but is a stout run-stopper in middle.**
66	***Young, Brian (T)**	**6-2**	**298**	**9**	**Texas-El Paso**	**9/8**	**UFA,STL 04**	**D5 STL 00**	**Veteran is looking to rebound after battling injuries, illness in 2007.**
LINEBACKERS									
54	Evans, Troy (O)	6-3	238	7	Cincinnati	16/0	UFA,HOUS 07	CFA STL 01	Veteran backup ranked second on team with 18 special teams tackles.
55	**Fujita, Scott (O)**	**6-5**	**250**	**7**	**California**	**15/15**	**UFA,DALL 06**	**D5 KC 02**	**Solid, aggressive player led team in tackles (119), forced fumbles (three).**
50	Mitchell, Marvin	6-3	249	2	Tennessee	10/0	FA 07	D7 NO 07	Showed flashes in training camp, but helped mostly on special teams.
52	***Morgan, Dan (O**	**6-2**	**245**	**8**	**Miami**	**3/3**	**FA 08**	**D1 CARO 01**	**Will likely have an opportunity to earn starting job on the weak side.**
58	Shanle, Scott (O)	6-2	245	6	Nebraska	14/14	T,DALL 06	D7 STL 03	Didn't have as good a season in '07, which could cost him starting job.
53	Simoneau, Mark (M)	6-0	245	9	Kansas State	16/16	T,PHA 06	D3 ATL 00	Ranked second with 97 tackles, but isn't the playmaker they need.
51	***Vilma, Jonathan (M**	**6-1**	**230**	**5**	**Miami**	**7/7**	**T,NYJ 08**	**D1 NYJ 04**	**Athleticism and range will be huge for the defense — if he's healthy.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
29	**Bullocks, Josh (S)**	**6-1**	**207**	**4**	**Nebraska**	**14/14**	**D2 05**	**D2 NO 05**	**Speedy young player has already started 43 games in three seasons.**
21	Craft, Jason (CB)	5-10	187	10	Colorado State	16/4	T,JAX 04	D5 JAX 99	Heady veteran seems to be more effective in nickel and dime packages.
42	David, Jason (CB)	5-8	180	5	Washington State	13/12	RFA,IND 07	D4 IND 04	Struggled with the Saints' scheme and gave up too many deep balls.
20	**Gay, Randall (CB)**	**5-11**	**190**	**5**	**Louisiana State**	**16/3**	**UFA,NE 08**	**CFA NE 04**	**Heady player can fill a number of roles after coming over from Patriots.**
31	Glenn, Aaron (CB)	5-9	183	15	Texas A&M	5/4	UFA,JAX 08	D1 NYJ 94	Wily 15-year veteran gives the Saints some insurance at the position.
41	**Harper, Roman (S)**	**6-1**	**200**	**3**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 NO 06**	**Solid against the run, he came on late in 2007 with three interceptions.**
43	Kaesviharn, Kevin (S)	6-1	200	8	Augustana (S.D.)	16/3	UFA,CIN 07	FA GB 01	A smart, experienced player who could challenge for a starting job.
34	***McKenzie, Mike (CB)**	**6-0**	**194**	**10**	**Memphis**	**15/15**	**T,GB 04**	**D3 GB 99**	**May be limited early in season after tearing his right ACL in Week 16.**
22	Porter, Tracy (CB)	5-11	186	R	Indiana	0/0	D2 08	D2 NO 08	Extremely fast corner could get a chance to show his skills pretty early.
39	Reis, Chris (S)	6-1	215	2	Georgia Tech	14/0	FA 07	CFA ATL 06	Saw limited action on defense, but collected 13 tackles on special teams.
28	Young, Usama (CB)	6-0	200	2	Kent State	14/0	D3 07	D3 NO 07	Third-round pick in '07 recorded a team-high 20 special-team tackles.
SPECIALISTS									
1	Gramatica, Martin (K)	5-8	170	10	Kansas State	3/0	FA 07	D3 TB 99	Was 5-for-5 in field goal attempts after being signed late in the 2007 season.
47	Houser, Kevin (LS)	6-2	252	8	Ohio State	16/0	D7 00	D7 NO 00	Dependable veteran continues to be one of the league's top snappers.
5	Mehlhaff, Taylor (K)	5-10	184	R	Wisconsin	0/0	D6 08	D6 NO 08	Possesses strong leg that produced an amazing 123 touchbacks in college.
7	Weatherford, Steve (P)	6-3	215	3	Illinois	16/0	FA 06	CFA NO 06	Had a solid season with 43.8 gross average, just four touchbacks in '07.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition free agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Todd Blythe (Iowa State), Evan Moore (Stanford), Titus Ryan (1, Concordia); TE Buck Ortega (1, Miami); OTs Jason Boone (Utah), Akim Millington (Illinois); OGs Tim Duckworth (1, Auburn), Nathan McManus (Georgia Tech); C Kevin Tuminello (Georgia Tech); RBs Lynell Hamilton (San Diego State), Olaniyi Sobomehin (Portland State); FB Kevin Dudley (1, Michigan); DE Jeremy Geathers (Nevada-Las Vegas); LBs Jo-Lonn Dunbar (Boston College), Luke Sanders (Louisiana State); CBs Greg Fassitt (1, Grambling), Anwar Phillips (1, Penn State); Ss David Roach (Texas Christian), Rocky Schwartz (Houston); P Waylon Prather (San Jose State); LS Ryan Senser (Ohio).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. In his two years with the Saints, Sean Payton's offense has finished first and fourth, respectively, in total offense. With all of their key weapons back, including triggerman Drew Brees, it would be a surprise if the Saints weren't in the top five again.
2. A new-look defense to finish in the top 15 in total yards allowed. They ranked 26th a year ago, including 30th against the pass, so giving up fewer deep balls and fewer touchdown passes after allowing 32 a year ago would be a good start.
3. Despite an 0-4 start last year, the Saints nearly made the playoffs with Deuce McAllister and Reggie Bush missing a total of 17 games because of injuries. If the offense can get some help from the defense, they should make a return to postseason play.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Reggie Bush

To say the least, the 2007 season wasn't a good one for the former Heisman Trophy winner.

Bush was nagged for much of the year by leg injuries — including a partially-torn PCL in his knee that sidelined him for the final four games when the Saints were making a late playoff push.

In addition, Bush didn't make much of an impact after Deuce McAllister went down with a knee injury in Week 3 — leaving many to doubt Bush's abilities at this level.

So 2008 will be an important year for Bush. He's eager to show last year was a fluke because of the injuries — and prove his many critics wrong. He scaled back non-football activities to focus on getting ready for the season, particularly "the mental aspect of the game."

"I'm taking a whole different approach," Bush said, "just in how I go about my business, just cutting a lot of stuff out of my life, singling everything down to make it simple.

"There's a lot I want to accomplish. I'm a competitor. I'm trying to do everything I can to find every little edge I plan to compete and make myself better. I know I can do it."

LINEBACKERS

If the Saints' off-season plan works out, this unit will look much different than it did last season.

Knowing they needed an athletic playmaker to anchor the group, the Saints started by trading for middle linebacker Jonathan Vilma. He's more suited to the 4-3, the defense he flourished in while earning NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors for the New York Jets in 2004.

If Vilma can overcome a knee injury, he'll join strong-side linebacker Scott Fujita and weak-side 'backer Dan Morgan, who the Saints took a chance on despite injuries that derailed his career in Carolina.

Mark Simoneau and Scott Shanle will battle Vilma and Morgan for starting jobs, while Troy Evans remains a capable backup.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

This is the big question mark on the defensive side of the ball after the Saints finished 30th in passing yards allowed. They also gave up 32 touchdown passes, tying for most in the league.

Cornerback Mike McKenzie tore his right ACL in Week 16, which could limit him early on this season, and Jason David struggled — especially with the deep ball — while playing in a new scheme.

The Saints gave up 54 passes of 20 yards or longer, prompting them to bring in free-agent corners Randall Gay and Aaron Glenn. They also drafted Tracy Porter in the second round. Jason Craft and Usama Young will also vie for playing time.

The back end of the secondary is manned by free safety Josh Bullocks and strong safety Roman Harper although Kevin Kaesviharn could make a play for a starting job.

RATING: 6

SPECIAL TEAMS

Martin Gramatica was solid in making all five of his field-goal tries after taking over for an injured Olindo Mare, who was later released.

Punter Steve Weatherford averaged 43.8 yards a punt with a net of 37.2, while Kevin Houser was solid as the long snapper.

Pierre Thomas averaged 24.0 yards a kickoff return and Lance Moore averaged 9.3 yards on punts although the Saints ranked 26th and 29th, respectively, in those categories.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

After starting 0-4 last season, the Saints will have to do much better this time. A 2-2 start or better is critical because seven of their final 10 games will be played away from home.

RATING: Plus 1

—Sheldon Mickles

2007 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 6	at Indianapolis (Thu.)	10-41
Sep. 16	at Tampa Bay	14-31
Sep. 24	TENNESSEE (Mon.)	14-31
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	CAROLINA	13-16
Oct. 14	at Seattle	28-17
Oct. 21	ATLANTA	22-16
Oct. 28	at San Francisco	31-10
Nov. 4	JACKSONVILLE	41-24
Nov. 11	ST. LOUIS	29-37
Nov. 18	at Houston	10-23
Nov. 25	at Carolina	31- 6
Dec. 2	TAMPA BAY	23-27
Dec. 10	at Atlanta (Mon.)	34-14
Dec. 16	ARIZONA	31-24
Dec. 23	PHILADELPHIA	23-38
Dec. 30	at Chicago	25-33

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	at Arizona (Thu.)	5:00
Aug. 16	HOUSTON (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	at Cincinnati (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	MIAMI (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Sep. 14	at Washington	1:00
Sep. 21	at Denver	2:05
Sep. 28	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00
Oct. 6	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	7:30
Oct. 12	OAKLAND	12:00
Oct. 19	at Carolina	1:00
Oct. 26	SAN DIEGO (London)	5:00
Nov. 2	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 9	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 16	at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 24	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	7:30
Nov. 30	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 7	ATLANTA	12:00
Dec. 11	at Chicago (Thu.)	7:15
Dec. 21	at Detroit	1:00
Dec. 28	CAROLINA	12:00

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

2007 RECORD: 9-8 | STADIUM: Raymond James Stadium, 65,657, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

NFC SOUTH | www.buccaneers.com

AT A GLANCE

One Buccaneer Place
Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 870-2700

TRAINING CAMP:
Disney Wide World of Sports, Orlando, FL

COACH:
Jon Gruden, 7th year with Buccaneers (51-50), 11th year as NFL head coach (91-78)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Bruce Allen

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Mark Arteaga

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Dennis Hickey

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Mark Dominik

PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE:
Doug Williams

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Larry Coyer	Assistant head coach	10	2
Bill Muir	Offensive coordinator/OL	31	7
Greg Olson	Quarterbacks	7	1
Tim Berbenich	Asst. running backs	7	3
Richard Mann	Receivers	27	7
George Yarno	Assistant line	1	1
Bob Casullo	Tight ends	9	2
Jay Gruden	Offensive assistant	7	7
Monte Kiffin	Defensive coordinator	26	13
Todd Wash	Defensive line	2	2
Casey Bradley	Linebackers	3	3
Raheem Morris	Secondary	6	6
Richard Bisaccia	*Special teams/RB	7	7
Dwayne Stukes	Special Teams Quality Control	3	3
Mike Morris	Strength & Cond.	10	7
Kurtis Shultz	Strength & Cond.	6	3

*Associate head coach

Bucs Try to String Winning Seasons Together

The NFC South wasn't the usual dominant division it's been in the past, but that didn't stop the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from emerging as the team to beat and regaining the top position.

It was the second time during head coach Jon Gruden's tenure that the Bucs have pulled off a worst-to-first feat in the division. They followed the 4-12 2006 season with a 9-7 effort that ended with a home playoff game.

Now they'll try to break the trend of following a winning season with a losing one, something they haven't been able to do under Gruden.

Key starters return and are joined by numerous free-agent acquisitions aimed at bolstering certain positions and addressing depth needs at others.

The Bucs improved their passing game last season and also returned their defense to former dominance following a year out of the top 10. Capitalizing on gains in those areas while addressing others needing improvement, Tampa Bay hopes to defend its NFC South Division title and do some damage in the postseason.

Another trend the Bucs hope to buck, going one-and-done in the postseason. Since their Super Bowl victory in 2002, the Bucs are 0-2 in the postseason.

COACHING

In his seventh season as the Bucs head coach, Jon Gruden returns with renewed vigor and renewed confidence from Tampa Bay's ownership. Gruden and general manager Bruce Allen each received a three-year contract extension earlier this year. Clearly, the Glazer family believes the duo have the organization heading in the right direction.

Defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin also remains a permanent fixture at One Buc Place. Rumors swirled in the off-season of Kiffin joining other teams, including his son Lane Kiffin's Oakland Raiders. But like Gruden, Kiffin got a new contract and will likely finish out his NFL career in Tampa.

RATING: 8

QUARTERBACKS

Jeff Garcia appeared to be the missing piece to Gruden's offensive puzzle in Tampa. With Garcia at the helm, the Bucs' offense posted their highest ranking (18th) since 2003 when they were 10th. Garcia helped the Bucs average 326.8 yards per game and proved his value when he missed three games due to injury. Garcia also proved to be careful with the ball, throwing just four interceptions all season. The rest of the team's quarterbacks take up a good chunk of the roster. It's no surprise Gruden likes to stockpile quarterbacks and he's almost outdone himself this year.

Backup Luke McCown filled in well at times last season, displaying a strong arm, but also showed a lack of experience. Former starter Brian Griese rejoined the team in the off-season after a stint with the Chicago Bears. He and McCown will battle for the backup spot, while rookie Josh Johnson, a

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Warrick Dunn

Gruden cornered Dunn at Alstott's retirement party trying to convince the veteran to make a return to Tampa. Dunn did and he'll be the all-around back needed for Gruden's offensive scheme to be a success.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DE Marques Douglas, C Jeff Faine, TE John Gilmore, QB Brian Griese, LB Leon Joe, LB Teddy Lehman, LB Matt McCoy, TE Ben Troupe, DE Jimmy Wilkerson, CB Eugene Wilson

KEY LOSS:
CB Brian Kelly (11/4)*
When healthy, the veteran cornerback was the perfect compliment to Pro Bowler Ronde Barber. Kelly often took advantage when teams tried to stay away from Barber's side of the field.

OTHER LOSSES:
FB Mike Alstott (0/0), TE Anthony Becht (16/2), WR Mark Jones (6/0), C Matt Lehr (16/0), SS Kalvin Pearson (16/1), RB Michael Pittman (10/3), DE Greg Spires (10/8), TE Jerramy Stevens (15/3), LB Jeremiah Trotter (3/1), C John Wade (16/16)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

fifth-round pick, will try to hang on to the fourth spot and has project written all over him. Having already tried to trade them, Chris Simms and Bruce Gradkowski, former Bucs starters, appear to be the odd men out.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

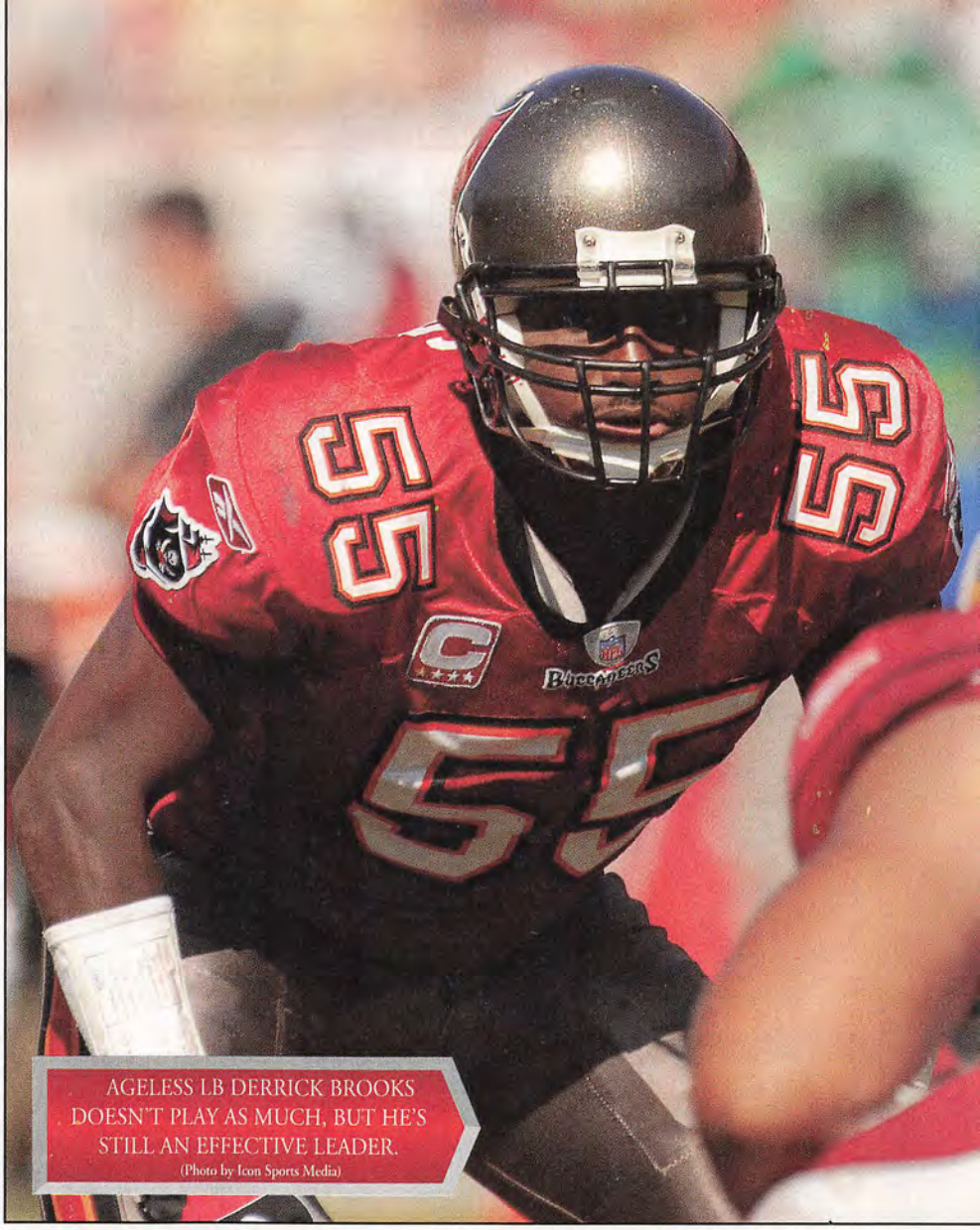
The biggest question mark concerning the Bucs' offense this season is whether Cadillac Williams can return from a devastating knee injury that cost him most of last season. The 2005 Rookie of the Year has battled various injuries throughout his short NFL career, but the torn patellar tendon he suffered last year threatens to keep him off the field for a while. In the interim, the Bucs will go with veteran Earnest Graham, who proved himself as an every-down back last season in place of Williams. Michael Bennett adds depth at the position and fullback B.J. Askew provides the blocking skills, coupled with some skills as a pass-catching back. Former Atlanta Falcons back Warrick Dunn returns to his original NFL team bringing the versatility Gruden craves from his backs. Pro Bowl fullback Mike Alstott retired in the off-season after 12 seasons with the Bucs.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

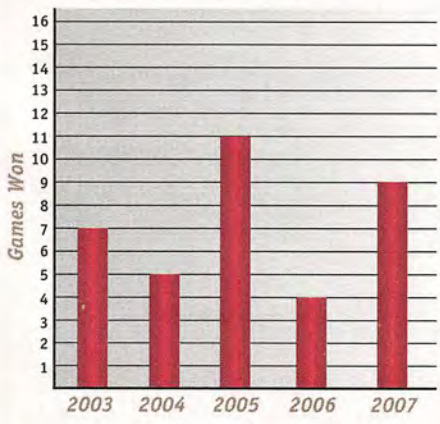
This was one area the Bucs failed to upgrade in the off-season. Fourteen-year veteran Joey Galloway returns for his fifth season with the Bucs. Gimpy towards the end of the last season, Galloway wasn't able to be as effective as the Bucs hoped in the postseason. He still remains one of the biggest deep threats in the game. Ike Hilliard provides sure hands and is the most reliable receiver in third-down situations. The jury's still out on Michael Clayton and whether he can be an every-down receiver. Clayton's been inconsistent the past several seasons, bothered by injuries throughout most of them, but also has shown flashes of brilliance. Maurice Stovall also remains in the mix, but like Clayton, he's got to show more consistency. Second-round draft pick Dexter Jackson adds some speed to complement Galloway's quickness, but his size (5-9, 182) may limit him at this level.

RATING: 6.5



AGELESS LB DERRICK BROOKS DOESN'T PLAY AS MUCH, BUT HE'S STILL AN EFFECTIVE LEADER.
(Photo by Icon Sports Media)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005, 2007*

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

This unit finally proved to be an area of strength for the Bucs. After years of trying to piece together linemen, the Bucs have a group that played well together and got better as the season went on. Center Jeff Faine joins the group, replacing John Wade. A strong right side, anchored by tackle Jeremy Trueblood and guard Davin Joseph, open up a lot of running room. The left side, with guard Arron Sears and tackles Luke Petitgout and Donald Penn, protects Garcia. Petitgout will be trying to regain his starting spot from Penn after last year's knee injury. Rookie Jeremy Zuttah out of Rutgers brings some versatility and the ability to play the guard and tackle positions.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

Defensive end Greg White emerged as a playmaker and overshadowed 2007 top draft pick Gaines Adams' rookie campaign. White has expressed displeasure with his contract and would like to be paid for his services, which will be in bigger demand this season. White, a former Arena League Football player discovered by Gruden's brother Jay, led the defense with eight sacks. Jovan Haye and Chris Hovan shore up the middle, while Greg Spires, one of the line's most versatile players is gone. Haye tied Adams for second on the team with six sacks. Former Kansas City Chiefs defensive end Jimmy Wilkerson provides depth and veteran Kevin Carter returns with leadership and versatility to play any position on the line.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

The Bucs' linebacking corps is a mix of youth and experience. Fourth-year player Barrett Ruud took over fulltime starting duties in the middle last

Buccaneers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
10	Biddle, Taye	6-1	185	2	Mississippi	0/0	FA 08	CFA CARO 06	Former Ole Miss standout looking to stick.
89	*Bryant, Antonio	6-1	191	6	Pittsburgh	0/0	FA 08	D2 DALL 02	Just like David Boston before him, Bryant's a project.
18	Clark, Brian	6-2	204	3	North Carolina State	5/0	FA 07	CFA DEN 06	Tampa native who would love to make it with his hometown team.
80	Clayton, Michael	6-4	215	5	Louisiana State	14/4	D1 04	D1 TB 04	Still too inconsistent for Gruden's taste, but hoping to redeem himself.
46	Fells, Daniel (TE)	6-4	252	2	Cal-Davis	0/0	FA 08	CFA ATL 06	Big tight end with a lot of experience in front of him on depth chart.
84	**Galloway, Joey**	**5-11**	**197**	**14**	**Ohio State**	**15/15**	**T,DALL 04**	**D1 SEA 95**	**Speed still on his side, age isn't.**
88	Gilmore, John (TE)	6-5	257	7	Penn State	15/1	UFA,CHI -8	D6 NO 02	Tall tight end target with good blocking skills.
14	Hankton, Cortez	6-0	200	5	Texas Southern	0/0	FA 08	CFA JAX 03	Journeyman looking to land on team that needs his speed.
87	Heinrich, Keith (TE)	6-6	255	6	Sam Houston State	4/0	FA 08	D6 CARO 02	Versatile tight end with previous starting experience.
19	**Hilliard, Ike**	**5-11**	**210**	**12**	**Florida**	**15/10**	**FA 05**	**D1 NYG 97**	**Great third-down receiver, also proved reliable on other downs.**
1	Jackson, Dexter	5-9	182	R	Appalachian State	0/0	D2 08	D2 TB 08	Brings speed and deep threat possibilities to a thin receiving corps.
15	Lucas, Chad	6-1	201	1	Alabama State	2/1	FA 07	CFA TENN 04	More of a return guy than a receiver.
81	**Smith, Alex (TE)**	**6-4**	**258**	**4**	**Stanford**	**14/14**	**D3 05**	**D3 TB 05**	**Still waiting to become more of a factor game in, game out.**
17	Spurlock, Micheal (KR)	5-10	214	2	Mississippi	7/0	FA 07	CFA ARIZ 06	Proved his merit as a return guy, now needs to show receiving skills.
85	*Stovall, Maurice	6-5	220	3	Notre Dame	15/1	D3 06	D3 TB 06	With a good training camp, could develop into the Bucs No. 3 receiver.
83	Troupe, Ben (TE)	6-4	270	5	Florida	16/2	UFA,TENN 08	D2 TENN 04	Fills hole left by the departure of Anthony Becht.
82	*Warren, Paris	6-0	213	3	Utah	0/0	FA 06	D7 TB 05	Coming off a devastating leg injury following a good preseason.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	Buenning, Dan (G)	6-4	320	4	Wisconsin	0/0	D4 05	D4 TB 05	Trying to regain his starting spot after knee injury in 2006.
69	Davis, Anthony (T)	6-4	322	5	Virginia Tech	9/0	FA 03	CFA TB 03	Former starter can play tackle and guard.
74	*Denman, Chris (T)	6-7	315	2	Fresno State	0/0	D7 07	D7 TB 07	Provides depth at tackle and guard.
52	**Faine, Jeff (C)**	**6-3**	**291**	**6**	**Notre Dame**	**14/14**	**UFA,NO 08**	**D1 CLV 03**	**Replaces John Wade in the middle; brings more physicality to center position.**
75	**Joseph, Davin (G)**	**6-3**	**313**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 TB 06**	**Solid, physical guard on the right side that opens up a lot of running room.**
70	Penn, Donald (T)	6-5	305	3	Utah State	16/12	FA 06	CFA MINN 06	Will try to fight off Petitgout to keep starting left tackle spot.
77	***Petitgout, Luke (T)**	**6-6**	**310**	**10**	**Notre Dame**	**4/4**	**FA 07**	**D1 NYG 99**	**Coming off knee injury; hasn't done anything to shake injury prone status.**
78	**Sears, Arron (G)**	**6-3**	**319**	**2**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D2 07**	**D2 TB 07**	**Big physical presence on the left side.**
65	**Trueblood, Jeremy (T)**	**6-8**	**320**	**3**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 TB 06**	**Already a strong right tackle, could try out the left side.**
76	Zuttah, Jeremy (T/G)	6-4	303	R	Rutgers	0/0	D3 08	D3 TB 08	Has the versatility to play any position on the line.
RUNNING BACKS									
35	**Askew, B.J. (FB)**	**6-3**	**233**	**6**	**Michigan**	**13/9**	**UFA,NYJ 07**	**D3 NYJ 03**	**Solid blocker who could resurrect the Rhino Backfield.**
29	Bennett, Michael	5-9	207	8	Wisconsin	14/1	T,KC 07	D1 MINN 01	Brings experience and versatility to the backfield.
39	Boyd, Cory	6-1	218	R	South Carolina	0/0	D7 08	D7 TB 08	Williams' injury might buy him time this season.
33	Darby, Kenneth	5-10	211	1	Alabama	1/0	FA 07	D7 TB 07	Spent most of last season getting adjusted to the pro game speed.
28	Dunn, Warrick	5-9	187	12	Florida State	16/15	FA 08	D1 TB 97	Still has speed and great hands to be productive in this system.
34	**Graham, Earnest (FB)**	**5-9**	**225**	**5**	**Florida**	**15/10**	**FA 04**	**CFA TB 03**	**Emerged as an every down back and a playmaker.**
44	Storer, Byron (FB)	6-1	219	2	California	9/3	FA 07	CFA TB 07	Started three games last season, but somewhat undersized.
24	*Williams, Carnell	5-11	217	4	Auburn	4/4	D1 05	D1 TB 05	Last season's knee injury may keep him off the field for a while.
QUARTERBACKS									
7	**Garcia, Jeff**	**6-1**	**205**	**10**	**San Jose State**	**13/13**	**UFA,PHA 07**	**FA SF 99**	**Was the difference for the offense last season.**
5	Gradkowski, Bruce	6-1	220	3	Toledo	4/0	D6 06	D6 TB 06	Seems to have run out of chances with Tampa Bay.
8	Griese, Brian	6-3	214	11	Michigan	7/6	UFA,CHI 08	D3 DEN 98	Back for another stint with Bucs and likely backup spot.
11	Johnson, Josh	6-2	201	R	San Diego	0/0	D5 08	D5 TB 08	Possesses a lot of upside, but still will be a long-term project.
12	McCown, Luke	6-3	212	5	Louisiana Tech	5/3	T,CLV 05	D4 CLV 04	Proved to be reliable backup in relief of Garcia last year.
16	*Plummer, Jake	6-2	212	11	Arizona State	0/0	T,DEN 07	D2 ARIZ 97	Remains on the roster, but not on the football field.
2	*Simms, Chris	6-4	220	6	Texas	0/0	D3 03	D3 TB 03	Struggled to come back from spleen injury last year; never fit in with Gruden.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
90	**Adams, Gaines (E)**	**6-5**	**258**	**2**	**Clemson**	**16/8**	**D1 07**	**D1 TB 07**	**Ready to prove himself as a full-time starter.**
92	*Bennett, Charles (E)	6-3	254	3	Clemson	0/0	FA 06	D7 TB 06	Versatile lineman who could figure into the rotation.
93	Carter, Kevin	6-6	305	14	Florida	16/14	FA 08	D1 STL 95	Re-upped with the Bucs bringing valuable experience to line.
94	Douglas, Marques (T)	6-2	292	8	Howard	16/16	UFA,SF 08	CFA BLT 99	Long-time veteran who brings a lot of size to the end position.
71	**Haye, Jovan (E)**	**6-2**	**285**	**4**	**Vanderbilt**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D6 CARO 05**	**Claimed starting under tackle spot with solid play.**
95	**Hovan, Chris (UT)**	**6-2**	**296**	**9**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**UFA,MINN 05**	**D1 MINN 00**	**Provides nastiness and great run stopping skills in the middle.**
67	Moore, Dre (T)	6-4	305	R	Maryland	0/0	D4 08	D4 TB 08	Displays quickness and strong tackling abilities.
96	*Peterson, Greg (T)	6-5	286	2	North Carolina Central	10/0	D5 07	D5 TB 07	With year of experience under his belt, could see more playing time.
98	Sims, Ryan (NT)	6-4	315	7	North Carolina	9/0	T,KC 07	D1 KC 02	Didn't get a lot of playing time last year because of Haye's emergence.
91	**White, Greg (E)**	**6-3**	**270**	**2**	**Minnesota**	**16/2**	**FA 07**	**D7 HOUS 02**	**Emerged out of Arena League obscurity to become most consistent lineman.**
97	Wilkerson, Jimmy (E)	6-2	290	6	Oklahoma	16/2	UFA,KC 08	D6 KC 03	Former Chief could thrive under Kiffin.
LINEBACKERS									
58	Black, Quincy (O)	6-2	240	2	New Mexico	15/0	D3 07	D3 TB 07	Spent last season learning system; wants to show off his knowledge.
55	**Brooks, Derrick (O)**	**6-0**	**235**	**14**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 95**	**D1 TB 95**	**Playing time limited, but still a valuable member of the defense.**
50	*Cash, Antoine (O)	6-1	223	4	Southern Mississippi	0/0	FA 08	CFA ATL 05	Solid special teams contributor.
54	Chukwurah, Patrick (O)	6-1	250	8	Wyoming	9/0	UFA,DEN 07	D5 MINN 01	Strong pass rusher slowed by injuries last year.
45	Hayes, Geno	6-1	226	R	Florida State	0/0	D6 08	D6 TB 08	Traits are reminiscent of a younger Brooks.
57	Hayward, Adam	6-0	235	2	Portland State	12/0	D6 07	D6 TB 07	Speedy linebacker who is perfect for the Cover 2 scheme.
49	Joe, Leon (O)	6-1	235	5	Maryland	8/0	UFA,BUFF 08	D4 CHI 04	Small, speedy linebacker who could thrive in Tampa's system.
59	**June, Cato (O)**	**6-0**	**227**	**6**	**Michigan**	**16/14**	**UFA,IND 07**	**D6 IND 03**	**Took over for Brooks at times last year, could do it more this year.**
53	Lehman, Teddy (M)	6-2	238	5	Oklahoma	16/0	UFA,DET 08	D2 DET 04	Brings starting experience and strong special teams skills.
41	McCoy, Matt (O)	5-11	230	4	San Diego State	11/0	FA 08	D2 PHA 05	Former second-rounder who will be a good fit in this scheme.
56	Nece, Ryan (O)	6-3	224	7	UCLA	15/0	CFA 02	CFA TB 02	Relegated to special teams and spot play at strong side.
51	**Ruud, Barrett (M)**	**6-2**	**241**	**4**	**Nebraska**	**15/15**	**D2 05**	**D2 TB 05**	**Became full-time starter and doesn't look to be giving it up soon.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
26	Allen, Will (S)	6-1	200	5	Ohio State	15/0	D4 04	D4 TB 04	Former starter who lends depth at safety position.
20	**Barber, Ronde (CB)**	**5-10**	**184**	**12**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D3 97**	**D3 TB 97**	**One of the reasons the defense remains one of the best in the NFL.**
31	**Buchanon, Phillip (CB)**	**5-11**	**186**	**7**	**Miami**	**16/13**	**FA 06**	**D1 OAK 02**	**Takes over left side vacated by Brian Kelly.**
27	*Cox, Torrie (CB)	5-10	192	6	Pittsburgh	4/0	D6 03	D6 TB 03	Overcame off-the-field issues, but still mostly a special teams contributor.
22	Davis, Sammy (CB)	6-1	195	6	Texas A&M	14/1	FA 07	D1 SD 03	Trying to re-establish himself as a major contributor.
25	Hamilton, Marcus (CB)	6-0	192	1	Virginia	0/0	FA 08	D7 TB 07	Plays with a similar style to Barber.
36	**Jackson, Tanard (S)**	**6-0**	**200**	**2**	**Syracuse**	**16/16**	**D4 07**	**D4 TB 07**	**Became a rare rookie starter on defense and one of the bigger playmakers.**
30	Nicholson, Donte (S)	6-1	216	2	Oklahoma	1/0	FA 07	D5 TB 05	Good special teams player stuck behind a lot of talent.
23	**Phillips, Jermaine (S)**	**6-2**	**220**	**7**	**Georgia**	**15/15**	**D5 02**	**D5 TB 02**	**Sound tackling and hard hitting becoming his trademark.**
21	*Piscitelli, Sabby (S)	6-3	224	2	Oregon State	3/0	D2 07	D2 TB 07	Injury prevented him from making an impact last season.
25	Talib, Aqib (CB)	6-1	205	R	Kansas	0/0	D1 08	D1 TB 08	Speed and instincts could warrant starting time at nickel back position.
38	Wilson, Eugene (CB)	5-10	195	6	Illinois	11/6	UFA,NE 08	D2 NE 03	Will be a project at cornerback.
SPECIALISTS									
9	Bidwell, Josh (P)	6-3	220	9	Oregon	16/0	UFA,GB 04	D4 GB 99	Returned to Pro Bowl form last year.
3	Bryant, Matt (K)	5-9	200	6	Baylor	16/0	FA 05	CFA NYG 02	Remains a consistent kicker and offensive weapon for the Bucs.
48	Economos, Andrew (LS)	6-1	250	3	Georgia Tech	16/0	FA 06	CFA JAX 06	Developed into a reliable and consistent long snapper.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Amarri Jackson (USF), Charlie Spiller (Alcorn State); TE Tyrice Thompson (Arizona State); OTs Chris Clark (Southern Mississippi), Dennis Roland (1, Georgia); OG Brian Johnson (1, Louisiana State); C John Rochford (Miami); RB Clifton Smith (Fresno State); FB Carl Stewart (Auburn); DE Marquies Gunn (1, Auburn); DT Chris Bradwell (Troy); CB Darrell Hunter (1, Miami, Ohio); S Jonathan Hefney (Tennessee); DB Elbert Mack (Troy).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Who will be the Bucs backup quarterback? Brian Griese and Luke McCown will battle for the right to be Garcia's backup. McCown's had more time in Gruden's system, while Griese has more proven starting experience in the scheme.
2. Cadillac Williams said he'll be ready for the season. He'll likely skip training camp while he continues to rehabilitate his knee. Will the Bucs wait for him to heal or spare a roster spot and place him on physically unable to perform?
3. What will the Bucs do with Derrick Brooks? He was taken out of the game on passing plays last season and could see more time on the sideline this year with the addition of more youthful players. Brooks still packs a punch at times and is an invaluable leader in the locker room.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Gaines Adams

In just three short months, the Bucs were so impressed by what they had seen in defensive end Gaines Adams, they had no problem releasing veteran Simeon Rice.

At times, Adams looked capable of replacing the Pro Bowler. At others, Adams looked every bit the rookie.

Adams shouldered a lot of the blame for the Bucs lack of a consistent pass rush last year. He was brought in to shore up that part of the Bucs' defense and early on in his NFL career, he wasn't living up to expectations.

He didn't earn a starting spot until Week 9 and it took him six games before he recorded his first sack. The Nov. 18 game against Atlanta proved to be a turning point of sorts. Adams had his only multiple sack performance of the season (two) and took over the game at times.

Splitting time between the right and left end, Adams eventually emerged late last season as the playmaker the Bucs had envisioned when they spent a first-round draft pick on him.

Now they just need him to show off those skills on a more regular and consistent basis.

year and was ninth in the NFC with 114 tackles. Veteran Derrick Brooks was right behind him with 109 tackles, but Brooks' playing time was limited last year and could lessen even more this season. Outside linebacker Cato June played some in Brooks' spot and rookie Geno Hayes, a Florida State product just like Brooks, could factor into some playing time.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Former starter Brian Kelly's gone, opting out of the final year of his contract, while starters Ronde Barber and Phillip Buchanon remain. Kelly's departure left the Bucs thin at cornerback and made their move to select former Kansas cornerback Aqib Talib in the first round a logical one. Free-agent acquisition Eugene Wilson, a former safety with the Patriots, will be a project at cornerback, a position he hasn't played since college. Led by safeties Jermaine Phillips and Tanard Jackson, the secondary helped the Bucs defense lead the league by allowing only 170.5 yards per game last season. Phillips, who led the team with four interceptions, and Jackson, who collected two, emerged as potential Pro Bowlers.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Micheal Spurlock finally did something no other kickoff returner in Tampa Bay history had been able to — return one for a touchdown. Spurlock wasn't just a one-hit wonder either. He consistently provided the Bucs with good field position with his 27.8-yard return average (fourth in the NFC).

Kicker Matt Bryant didn't get a key to the city last season like he did the previous year for his 62-yard winning field goal. That doesn't mean Bryant wasn't his usual consistent self. Also providing strength in the kicking game was punter Josh Bidwell, who looked a lot like his 2005 Pro Bowl self. Bidwell helped pin Tampa Bay opponents deep in their own territory.

Rookies Talib and Jackson could replace Mark Jones as the punt returner. Jones was eighth in the NFC last season with an 11.9 average.

RATING: 6.5

INTANGIBLES

The Bucs are 16-9 in the preseason the past six years. The only time the Bucs were under .500 in the preseason in that span was 2006 when they were 1-3. That may have set the tone for the Bucs 4-12 regular season record. Winning in the preseason has more times than not resulted in a winning regular season. When the Bucs went 12-4 and won the Super Bowl in 2002, they were 3-1 in the preseason. Gruden believes in beginning strong, and that includes the preseason.

RATING: Plus 2

— Katherine Smith

2007 RESULTS

Record: 9-8

Sep. 9	at Seattle	6-20
Sep. 16	NEW ORLEANS	31-14
Sep. 23	ST. LOUIS	24- 3
Sep. 30	at Carolina	20- 7
Oct. 7	at Indianapolis	14-33
Oct. 14	TENNESSEE	13-10
Oct. 21	at Detroit	16-23
Oct. 28	JACKSONVILLE	23-24
Nov. 4	ARIZONA	17-10
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	at Atlanta	31- 7
Nov. 25	WASHINGTON	19-13
Dec. 2	at New Orleans	27-23
Dec. 9	at Houston	14-28
Dec. 16	ATLANTA	37- 3
Dec. 23	at San Francisc	19-21
Dec. 30	CAROLINA	23-31
Jan. 6	N.Y. GIANTS	14-24

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at Miami (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 17	NEW ENGLAND	8:00
Aug. 23	JACKSONVILLE (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at Houston (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at New Orleans	12:00
Sep. 14	ATLANTA	4:05
Sep. 21	at Chicago	12:00
Sep. 28	GREEN BAY	1:00
Oct. 5	at Denver	2:05
Oct. 12	CAROLINA	1:00
Oct. 19	SEATTLE	8:15
Oct. 26	at Dallas	12:00
Nov. 2	at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 9	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 16	MINNESOTA	1:00
Nov. 23	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 30	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 8	at Carolina (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 14	at Atlanta	1:00
Dec. 21	SAN DIEGO	8:15
Dec. 28	OAKLAND	1:00

NFC WEST

Farewell to Mike

Under Mike Holmgren, Seattle has been the gold standard in the NFC West. The Seahawks have won four straight division titles. Since realignment in 2002, only New England and Indianapolis have done better, each with five straight division titles. The Seahawks have been to the playoffs the past five seasons, including Super Bowl XL following the 2005 campaign. But Holmgren is calling it quits after this, his 10th season in the Pacific Northwest. Will Holmgren go out in style, with yet another division title and perhaps another Super Bowl run? Or will someone rise up to end the Seahawks' stranglehold on the West? Arizona, under second-year head coach Ken Whisenhunt, seems best equipped to mount a challenge. The Cardinals have arguably the game's best tandem of young receivers in Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin, and a young, improving defense. As for San Francisco and St. Louis, Mike Nolan and Scott Linehan are just trying to survive. Both embattled head coaches are on very warm seats entering 2008.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

The Cardinals have been to the playoffs only once and enjoyed only one winning season since moving west from St. Louis in 1988. This could be the year it happens again. The Cardinals have added Louisiana State's Early Doucet to their already-gifted receiver corps in the third round of the draft. Were it not for a groin injury last season, Doucet might have been a first-round pick. First-rounder Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie gives Arizona three solid corners, joining Rod Hood and Eric Green. Even if Matt Leinart fails to live up to expectations as the 10th overall pick in 2006, savvy veteran Kurt Warner has shown he can move this offense.

ST. LOUIS RAMS

After losing 13 games in 2007, the Rams lost their longtime owner, Georgia Frontiere, to breast cancer on Jan. 18. Frontiere's son, Chip Rosenbloom, takes over as controlling partner of the franchise. Rosenbloom, a Hollywood movie producer, promises a hands-off approach as he gets to know the club. That was not the approach, however, for the anemic Rams offense, which finished 28th in scoring and 24th in total offense last season. Scott Linehan blew up his offensive staff. Among the newcomers are coordinator Al Saunders and quarterbacks coach Terry Shea. Longtime wide receiver Isaac Bruce was cut, and $36 million free agent Jacob Bell was added at left guard.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

In St. Louis, Mike Martz was the mastermind behind one of the greatest offenses in NFL history. In Detroit, he raised the Lions' passing game to respectability. But it may take a miracle worker to revive the moribund 49ers attack. The 49ers nearly achieved the Grand Slam of offensive ineptitude a year ago, placing last in scoring, yards gained and passing yards. (They were 27th in rushing yards.) Martz must do it with either Alex Smith or Shaun Hill at quarterback, and an aging Bruce, Bryant Johnson and Arnaz Battle as wide receivers. Best of luck, Mad Mike. At least he has running back Frank Gore.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

In yet another example that NFL really stands for Not For Long, Shaun Alexander went from league MVP to out of work in two short years. The Seahawks are depending on newcomers Julius Jones (Dallas) and T.J. Duckett (Detroit) to rebuild their running game following Alexander's release. The Seahawks averaged only 3.8 yards per carry and 101.2 yards per game, their lowest rushing totals since Holmgren's first season in Seattle (1999). With the offense somewhat in transition, the Seahawks may have to depend more on their underrated defense, headed by linebacker Lofa Tatupu and cornerback Marcus Trufant. Both were signed to long-term contracts during the off-season.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. How long does Matt Leinart hold off Kurt Warner?

So far, the best thing Leinart has done in Arizona is hold wild parties. This is a key year for him to show he has what it takes to be an NFL quarterback.

2. Will pigs fly in San Francisco when the Rams come to town?

Yes. Because noted 49ers killers — former Rams Isaac Bruce and Mike Martz — are now wearing the cardinal and gold. They will look very strange on the 49ers' sideline.

3. Did the Rams draft the right defensive lineman?

We'll see. St. Louis passed on the top-rated player on its board — Louisiana State defensive tackle DT Glenn Dorsey — taking Virginia defensive end Chris Long instead at No. 2 overall. Long fills a greater need.

4. Is their life after Shaun Alexander?

Kind of. Newcomers Julius Jones and T.J. Duckett will be more productive than Alexander was the past two seasons, but will be nowhere near the vintage years of Alexander the Great.

5. What can Brown do for you?

The Rams hope Josh Brown will make it a seamless transition from Jeff Wilkins' 11-year run at kicker. The Seahawks, jolted by Brown's free-agent departure, hope Olindo Mare or rookie Brandon Coutu can fill the void.

—Jim Thomas

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SAN FRANCISCO	415-992-6310
SANTA ANA, CA	714-418-4917
SEATTLE	206-973-0222
VIRGINIA BEACH	757-333-0341

Check at www.ncsports.com for an updated city listing.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

2007 RECORD: 8-8 | STADIUM: University of Phoenix Stadium, 65,000, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

NFC WEST | www.azcardinals.com

AT A GLANCE

8701 S. Hardy
Tempe, AZ 85284
(602) 379-0101

TRAINING CAMP:
Northern Arizona University; Flagstaff, AZ

COACH:
Ken Whisenhunt, 2nd year with Cardinals and as NFL head coach (8-8)

VICE PRESIDENT/FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Rod Graves

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Steve Keim

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Todd Haley	Offensive coordinator	12	2
Jeff Rutledge	Quarterbacks	2	2
Russ Grimm	*Offensive line	17	2
Maurice Carthon	Running backs	15	2
Mike Miller	Receivers	9	2
Freddie Kitchens	Tight ends	3	2
Dedric Ward	Off. quality control	2	2
Clancy Pendergast	Defensive coordinator	14	5
Ron Aiken	Defensive line	2	2
Billy Davis	Linebackers	17	2
Teryl Austin	Secondary	6	2
Rick Courtright	Asst. secondary	5	5
Matt Raich	Defensive assistant	5	2
Kevin Spencer	Special teams	18	2
John Lott	Strength & Cond.	13	2

*Assistant head coach

Whisenhunt Trying to Change Desert Culture

For a team that has sniffed the playoffs only once in its 20-year history in Arizona, the Cardinals refuse to thumb their nose at some of the strides they made last season.

There were enough to make them believe they are headed in the right direction entering the 2008 season.

*By finishing 8-8, head coach Ken Whisenhunt tied Buddy Ryan (1995) for the best record in team history by a first-year coach since 1940.

*Arizona's three-win improvement from 2006 under Whisenhunt was the best among any of the four first-year head coaches in the NFL.

*The Cardinals' 6-2 home record was the most home wins by the club since it relocated from St. Louis in 1988.

*And, the Cardinals' 404 points scored was the second-most in franchise history, surpassed only by the 423 scored in 1984.

But when asked to assess his first season in the desert, Whisenhunt offered the following:

"Average, like our record. It's not good enough," he said. "We didn't make the playoffs, we didn't win the division. Those are two thing we want to do here."

The balance of power within the NFC West is beginning to tilt, however, and the Cardinals think they once again can be in the hunt for a postseason berth if they can shore up some issues and continue to build upon what they started a year ago.

COACHING

Most players felt that Whisenhunt, a former offensive coordinator under Bill Cowher with the Pittsburgh Steelers, had successfully changed the attitude within the organization, convincing the team it was worthy and good enough to win.

That hasn't been felt in a Cardinals' locker room for years.

Whisenhunt makes believers out of his players -- and makes them play hard for him continuously -- because he doesn't play favorites, he plays those that perform, and he makes those that don't become accountable.

Just as important as Whisenhunt's input is the improved confidence and security felt among a rebuilt offensive line, thanks to Russ Grimm, Whisenhunt's assistant head coach in charge of the offensive front five.

Grimm, along with offensive coordinator Todd Haley, were each targeted as potential head coaches elsewhere this off-season and will be scouted this season as well, but both are back, strengthening a staff that has created unity and greater expectations.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

Matt Leinart suffered a broken collarbone in his

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB/DE Travis LaBoy

The Cardinals added some much-needed depth at outside linebacker/defensive end in signing LaBoy. LaBoy, 26, will be utilized on third downs in pass rushing situations and he has a knack for getting to the quarterback.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Clark Haggans, P Dirk Johnson, DL Bryan Robinson, QB Brian St. Pierre, LB Matt Stewart, TE Jerame Tuman

KEY LOSS:
WR Bryant Johnson (16/8)*
While most may point to losing Calvin Pace, the Cardinals might find more of a sting at losing receiver Bryant Johnson. The Cardinals don't appear to have anyone on the roster that can step in and perform at his level right away.

OTHER LOSSES:
DL Rodney Bailey (16/0), P Mitch Berger (5/0), LB Darryl Blackstock (16/0), DT Chris Cooper (12/0), QB Tim Hasselbeck (1/0), S Terrence Holt (16/16), LB Brandon Johnson (6/0), S Bhawoh Jue (1/0), LB Calvin Pace (16/16), QB Tim Rattay (4/0), OT Oliver Ross (0/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 10 offense, 9 defense, kicker

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

left passing shoulder and appeared in just five games last season, allowing veteran Kurt Warner to shine and, curiously, stay healthy en route to 27-touchdown, 3,417-yard season.

Warner's touchdown totals were the third most in the NFC in 2007 and ranked second in Cardinals' history, falling just one shy of Neil Lomax's 28 in 1984 and Charley Johnson's 28 in 1963.

Leinart was aggravated that Whisenhunt often alternated between he and Warner during games before the injury and expressed to some outside the organization that the team should either sink or swim with him as the starter.

That may be the case, and Leinart enters camp as the likely No.1 guy, but Whisenhunt has reminded him that the NFL is a performance-based business and the best players will play.

Penn State's Anthony Morelli, an undrafted free agent, will compete for the No.3 job.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

The Cardinals were hoping to upgrade the position by using a relatively high pick in the draft to find a speed-type complement to veteran Edgerrin James. Instead, they didn't draft a tailback until the fifth round and Richmond's Tim Hightower's 40-yard time of 4.6 doesn't make him any faster than James.

The Cardinals aren't unhappy with James at all, however, as his 1,222 yards in '07 ranked fourth in the NFC. But James turns 30 on Aug. 1 and only four times last season did he have runs of 20 or more yards.

Marcel Shipp and J.J. Arrington aren't big-play types and are likely to be phased out in relative short order.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

The Cardinals entered the off-season still possessing one of the best tandems in the NFL in Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin. Fitzgerald led the NFC in receptions (100) and yards (1,409) and scored 10 touchdowns. Boldin battled through some injuries, but still managed to catch 71 passes, nine of them for touchdowns.

There may be some issues here, however, as after restructuring Fitzgerald's contract in the $40 million range, Boldin wants a new deal, too, and without one it has spurred countless rumors of a possible trade and/or holdout.

The team also lost its No. 3 receiver, Bryant Johnson, a free agent who signed with the 49ers. The Cardinals drafted a receiver in the third round, Louisiana State's Early Doucet, who will compete for a spot in camp along with Sean Morey, Steve Breaston, Jerheme Urban and possibly, Ahmad Merritt, who spent last year on injured reserve.

Leonard Pope and Ben Patrick are serviceable enough tight ends, with backup help available in Troy Bienemann, but this is a position that needs some fine-tuning.

RATING: 8.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

That the Cardinals didn't select a lineman in this year's draft until the seventh round speaks volumes as to how far the unit has come in a short time. Two years ago, it was a mess and entering last season, Whisenhunt and Grimm weren't sure exactly what they had.

"Last year at this time, I couldn't have told you who are offensive line was going to be," Whisenhunt said.

The projected starters include Al Johnson at center, Reggie Wells and Deuce Lutui at guards, and Mike Gandy and second-year man Levi Brown at tackles.

"We got stronger and stronger as the year went by and we are definitely headed in the right direction," reserve lineman Elton Brown said.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Injuries and a lack of depth forced the Cardinals to play their starting defensive ends more than they would have liked a year ago. That's one reason, perhaps, why Darnell Dockett had eight sacks through the first half of the season but only one in the final eight games.

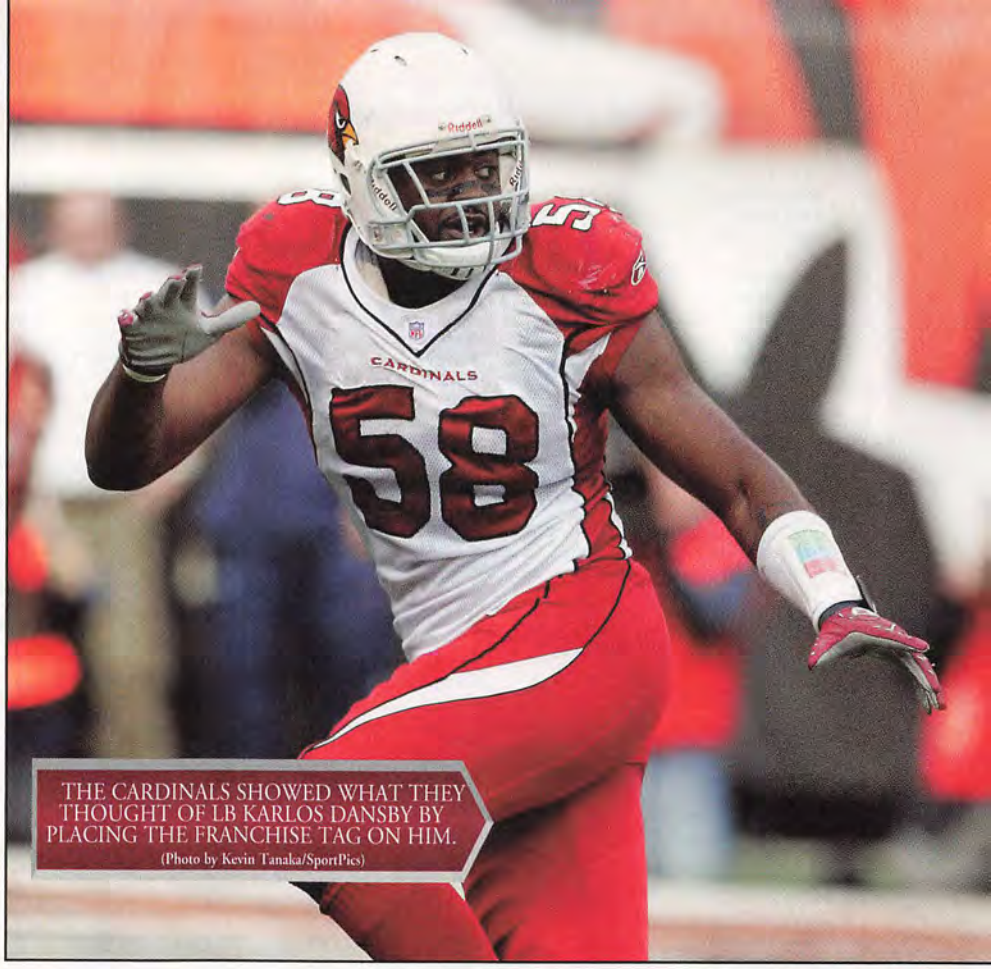
But the Cardinals solved their depth problem behind Dockett and Antonio Smith by signing free agent Travis LaBoy (Titans), who will compete with injury-prone Bertrand Berry at defensive end/outside linebacker, and drafting University of Miami defensive end Calais Campbell in the second round and Iowa's Kenny Iwebema in the fourth.

Second-year man Alan Branch and third-year pro Gabe Watson, both from Michigan, will see playing time and Branch could ultimately emerge as a starter in time.

RATING: 7.5

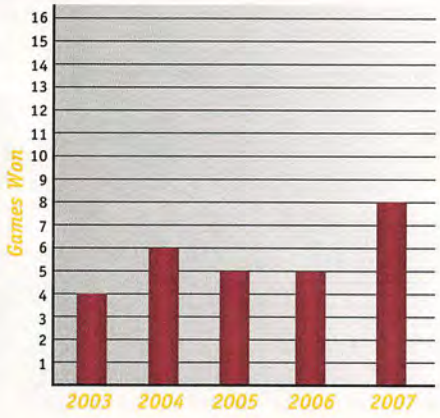
LINEBACKERS

They lost Calvin Pace to the Jets via free agency, but the Cardinals acted fast and signed three extra



THE CARDINALS SHOWED WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF LB KARLOS DANSBY BY PLACING THE FRANCHISE TAG ON HIM.
(Photo by Kevin Tanaka/SportPics)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs:*

Cardinals Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
83	Bienemann, Troy (TE)	6-5	253	2	Washington State	16/4	FA 07	CFA NO 06	Feel-good story a year ago ready to prove he belongs once again.
81	**Boldin, Anquan**	**6-1**	**217**	**6**	**Florida State**	**12/11**	**D2 03**	**D2 ARIZ 03**	**If he's happy, he'll be the leader he's always been. Show him the money.**
15	Breaston, Steve (KR)	6-0	189	2	Michigan	16/0	D5 07	D5 ARIZ 07	Raw, but talented. Capable of doing more than kick returns.
80	Doucet, Early	6-0	211	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D3 0	D2 ARIZ 08	Has a chance to become No. 3 man if he works hard enough.
11	**Fitzgerald, Larry**	**6-3**	**226**	**5**	**Pittsburgh**	**15/15**	**D1 04**	**D1 ARIZ 04**	**Like Boldin, he will be counted upon more at crunch time this year.**
86	*Merritt, Ahmad	5-10	197	4	Wisconsin	0/0	FA 08	CFA CHI 00	Hoping to open some eyes after being on injured reserve for all of '07.
87	Morey, Sean	5-11	193	6	Brown	15/0	FA 08	D7 NE 99	Might be a tad underrated, but needs a huge training camp to show it.
89	Patrick, Ben (TE)	6-3	252	2	Delaware	8/3	FA 07	D7 ARIZ 07	Wasn't consistent nearly enough. Needs more time to develop.
82	***Pope, Leonard (TE)**	**6-8**	**258**	**3**	**Georgia**	**13/11**	**D3 06**	**D3 ARIZ 06**	**Looking to become red-zone target again after a decent 2007.**
10	Rector, Jamaica	5-10	183	1	Northwest Missouri State	2/0	FA 07	CFA DALL 05	Decent speed gives him a chance, but he figures to be a long shot.
84	*Tuman, Jerame (TE)	6-4	253	10	Michigan	6/11	FA 08	D5 PITT 99	Looks to be training camp fodder, but he has experience.
85	Urban, Jerheme	6-3	212	4	Trinity	10/2	FA 08	CFA SEA 03	Dropped too many passes in critical situations. Try some pine tar.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
61	Brown, Elton (G/T)	6-5	332	4	Virginia	9/5	D4 05	D4 ARIZ 05	Provided decent enough backup help and can start at guard or tackle.
75	**Brown, Levi (T)**	**6-5**	**322**	**2**	**Penn State**	**13/11**	**D1 07**	**D1 ARIZ 07**	**Made strides last season as a rookie and is getting stronger.**
69	**Gandy, Mike (T)**	**6-4**	**308**	**8**	**Notre Dame**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 07**	**D3 CHI 01**	**Needs to stay healthy and watch the false start penalties.**
50	**Johnson, Al (C)**	**6-5**	**305**	**6**	**Wisconsin**	**14/14**	**UFA,DALL 07**	**D2 DALL 03**	**Plays beat up and doesn't complain. But he may wear down.**
72	Keith, Brandon (T)	6-5	343	R	Northern Iowa	0/0	D7 08	D7 ARIZ 08	Seventh-round pick will be brought along slowly as a tackle.
76	**Lutui, Deuce (G)**	**6-4**	**328**	**3**	**Southern Cal**	**15/15**	**D2 06**	**D2 ARIZ 06**	**Can still improve and must if he wants to be a fixture.**
64	Peters, Scott (G)	6-3	312	4	Arizona State	0/0	FA 08	D4 PHA 02	Needs to stay sharp and accountable to stay on as a reserve.
63	Sendlein, Lyle (G)	6-2	300	2	Texas	14/2	CFA 07	CFA ARIZ 07	Opened eyes at last year's camp. Should do it again in '07.
74	**Wells, Reggie (G)**	**6-4**	**305**	**6**	**Clarion**	**16/16**	**D6 03**	**D6 ARIZ 03**	**Holds his ground well and is becoming a leader on the line.**
RUNNING BACKS									
28	Arrington, J.J.	5-9	212	4	California	16/0	D2 05	D2 ARIZ 05	Still hasn't taken the next step and may never will; at least here.
46	Castille, Tim (FB)	5-11	234	2	Alabama	0/0	CFA 07	CFA ARIZ 07	Backup fullback is an extra body to have around just in case.
34	Hightower, Tim	6-0	224	R	Richmond	0/0	D5 08	D5 ARIZ 08	Rookie out of Richmond may have to bide his time behind James.
32	**James, Edgerrin**	**6-0**	**220**	**10**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**UFA,IND 06**	**D1 IND 99**	**Will be under the microscope. Doesn't want to become next Shaun Alexander.**
31	Shipp, Marcel	5-11	224	8	Massachusetts	16/0	CFA 01	CFA ARIZ 01	Had his chances before. He may be on his last legs in Arizona.
45	**Smith, Terrelle (FB)**	**6-0**	**250**	**8**	**Arizona State**	**16/10**	**FA 07**	**D4 NO 00**	**Provides decent enough blocking, but doesn't get goal-line touches.**
QUARTERBACKS									
7	***Leinart, Matt**	**6-5**	**232**	**3**	**Southern Cal**	**5/5**	**D1 06**	**D1 ARIZ 06**	**Has to stay healthy and become a leader now, or it may never happen.**
12	Morelli, Anthony	6-4	231	R	Penn State	0/0	CFA 08	CFA ARIZ 08	Undrafted free agent has a strong arm and could contend for No. 3 job.
2	St. Pierre, Brian	6-3	230	5	Boston College	0/0	UFA,PITT 08	D5 PITT 03	Target for the practice squad, but coaches seem to like him.
13	Warner, Kurt	6-2	222	11	Northern Iowa	14/11	UFA,NYG 05	CFA GB 94	Still sees himself as a starter and he proved worthy of it in 2007.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
92	***Berry, Bertrand (E)**	**6-3**	**264**	**11**	**Notre Dame**	**9/9**	**UFA,DEN 04**	**D3 IND 97**	**Has battled through a slew of injuries and his time could be nearing an end.**
78	Branch, Alan (T)	6-5	332	2	Michigan	11/0	D2 07	D2 ARIZ 07	Got stronger and smarter as '07 progressed, but needs polishing still.
93	Campbell, Calais (E)	6-8	282	R	Miami	0/0	D2 08	D2 ARIZ 08	Second-round pick will back up Dockett and Smith, play inside on third down.
90	**Dockett, Darnell (T)**	**6-4**	**285**	**5**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 ARIZ 04**	**Sack potential is always there – if he doesn't tire and get too worn out.**
73	Dykes, Keilen (T)	6-3	294	R	West Virginia	0/0	OFA 08	OFA ARIZ 08	Undrafted free agent who could be capable of finding work here.
79	Iwebema, Kenny (E)	6-4	274	R	Iowa	0/0	D4 08	D4 ARIZ 08	Fourth-rounder will also compete for backup time at end and could be sleeper.
55	LaBoy, Travis (E/LB)	6-3	260	5	Hawaii	13/0	UFA,TENN 08	D2 TENN 04	Solid addition from Titans can fill a hybrid role at OLB/DE on third downs.
97	Robinson, Bryan (E)	6-4	304	12	Fresno State	16/4	UFA,CIN 08	CFA STL 97	Ex-Bengal could help provide some depth that was lacking a year ago.
95	Schobel, Bo (E)	6-5	264	4	Texas Christian	2/0	FA 08	D4 TENN 04	Comes to play, but just hasn't had a ton of opportunities yet.
94	**Smith, Antonio (E)**	**6-4**	**282**	**4**	**Oklahoma State**	**16/13**	**FA 04**	**D5 ARIZ 04**	**Becoming a much more reliable force and this could be the year he truly shines.**
96	Tafoya, Joe (E)	6-4	258	7	Arizona	13/7	UFA,SEA 07	D7 TB 01	Another dependable depth guy who can fill in when needed as a starter.
98	**Watson, Gabe (T)**	**6-3**	**332**	**3**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 ARIZ 06**	**Suffered a kneecap injury that could limit him when training camp arrives.**
LINEBACKERS									
52	Beisel, Monty (M)	6-3	244	8	Kansas State	16/2	FA 06	D4 KC 01	Can play inside or outside and earns a paycheck because he's versatile and smart.
58	**Dansby, Karlos (O)**	**6-4**	**250**	**5**	**Auburn**	**14/14**	**D2 04**	**D2 ARIZ 04**	**The fixture among the linebackers, he's earning a reputation as a playmaker.**
53	Haggans, Clark (O)	6-4	243	9	Colorado State	16/16	UFA,PITT 08	D5 PITT 00	Free agent brings some depth. Coaches know him from time with Steelers.
59	Harrington, Chris (O)	6-5	264	R	Texas A&M	0/0	D6 08	D6 ARIZ 08	Sixth-round pick likely will be converted to linebacker at camp.
54	**Hayes, Gerald (M)**	**6-1**	**249**	**6**	**Pittsburgh**	**16/16**	**D3 03**	**D3 ARIZ 03**	**May face competition this season from within, but still is the man in the middle.**
37	Highsmith, Ali	6-1	223	R	Louisiana State	0/0	OFA 08	OFA ARIZ 08	Fell out of the draft after poor combine performance, but has talent.
57	Holloway, David (O)	6-2	234	1	Maryland	0/0	FA 07	CFA ARIZ 07	Fringe player with some talent. Can he do enough to stand out?
56	***Okeafor, Chike (O)**	**6-5**	**247**	**10**	**Purdue**	**0/0**	**UFA,SEA 05**	**D3 SF 99**	**Missed all of last season with a torn biceps. Has had other injury problems.**
51	*Stewart, Matt (O)	6-3	239	8	Vanderbilt	0/0	UFA,CLV 08	D4 ATL 01	Former Browns player provides depth and spot-start ability.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
27	Adams, Michael (CB)	5-8	181	2	Louisiana-Lafayette	7/0	FA 07	CFA ARIZ 07	Needs to pick up the effort to enhance his own career chances.
20	Brown, Ralph (CB)	5-10	185	9	Nebraska	16/0	UFA,CLV 07	D5 NYG 00	Backup with experience provides depth at corner, but isn't a starter.
35	Celestin, Oliver (S)	6-0	207	6	Texas Southern	15/4	FA 07	CFA CLV 03	Has to separate himself to be given more opportunities.
47	Francisco, Aaron (S)	6-2	207	4	Brigham Young	10/3	FA 05	CFA ARIZ 05	Hard worker with big heart. Can't break into starting spot, however.
25	***Green, Eric (CB)**	**5-11**	**195**	**4**	**Virginia Tech**	**11/11**	**D3 05**	**D3 ARIZ 05**	**Entering final year of his contract, he may be gone in '09.**
26	**Hood, Roderick (CB)**	**5-11**	**198**	**6**	**Auburn**	**16/16**	**UFA,PHA 07**	**CFA PHA 03**	**Solid pickup a year ago offers Cards a reliable starter at corner.**
23	Minter, DeMario (CB)	5-11	195	2	Georgia	0/0	FA 08	D5 CLV 06	Still developing and in time, could be a real find.
29	Rodgers-Cromartie, Dominique (CB)	6-2	182	R	Tennessee State	0/0	D1 08	D1 ARIZ 08	Will compete for a starting job and get share of playing time.
21	**Rolle, Antrel (S)**	**6-0**	**208**	**4**	**Miami**	**16/8**	**D1 05**	**D1 ARIZ 05**	**Making the switch from corner to free safety and is getting better.**
22	Ware, Matt (CB)	6-2	214	5	UCLA	15/0	W,PHA 06	D3 PHA 04	Depth player who, at times, has made some nice contributions.
24	***Wilson, Adrian (S)**	**6-3**	**230**	**8**	**North Carolina State**	**9/9**	**D3 01**	**D3 ARIZ 01**	**Pro Bowl strong safety is hungry and motivated as ever.**
SPECIALISTS									
48	Hodel, Nathan (LS)	6-2	238	6	Illinois	16/0	FA 01	CFA CARO 01	Solid long snapper rarely misfires. About as reliable as they come.
9	Johnson, Dirk (P)	6-0	205	5	Northern Colorado	1/0	FA 08	CFA SEA 98	Punter didn't get much work a year ago; needs to make a difference.
1	Rackers, Neil (K)	6-1	202	8	Illinois	16/0	FA 03	D6 CIN 00	Is looking to rebound to '05 form, but those days may be gone.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2007. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jemalle Cornelius (1, Florida), Lance Long (Mississippi State); TE Alex Shor (1, Syracuse); OTs Peter Clifford (Michigan State), Thaddeus Coleman (Mississippi Valley State), Elliot Vallejo (Cal-Davis); OGs Carlton Medder (Florida), Hercules Satele (Hawaii); RBs Steve Baylark (1, Massachusetts), Chris Vincent (1, Oregon); FB Dionte Johnson (Ohio State); DEs Jason Banks (Grambling), Bryan Robinson (Wesley); CBs Travarous Bain (1, Hampton), Marcus Brown (McNeese State); S Dennis Keyes (UCLA).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Running back Edgerrin James is moving up the career rushing list and very much wants to cement his place in history as one of the best backs in history. But the clock is ticking on the rusher who turns 30 in August.
2. The Cardinals plan to move Antrel Rolle from cornerback to free safety in an effort to best make use of his abilities. Rolle was on the verge of being a bust until he turned things around with a series of big plays a year ago. He needs to build on those positives.
3. One of the issues that seemed to kill the Cardinals in close games, and those in which they failed to protect decent leads, was their inability to get the ball into the hands of their playmaking receivers, Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin in clutch situations. Both were strangely silent far too often in the fourth quarters of games.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Matt Leinart

It doesn't get any hotter for anyone else in the organization than third-year quarterback Matt Leinart, who isn't just facing criticism for his productivity, but for his off-the-field personality.

The former Heisman Trophy winner created a national buzz this off-season when photos popped up all over the Internet of him and several young women during a party at his home. One of the images showed Leinart posing in a hot tub with four ladies and another of him assisting a young woman drink a beer bong.

If Leinart had guided the Cardinals to the playoffs, some of his socializing would be mostly overlooked. But he hasn't played a full season yet because of shoulder injuries and the Cardinals haven't taken the next step, partly because of it.

Head coach Ken Whisenhunt talked to Leinart almost immediately after the photos were made public and the two had a deep conversation about that and other things.

"I was disappointed," Whisenhunt said, "but at the same time have no doubts about his commitment to this football team or his ability to lead it."

Leinart began last season as the starter, but a broken collarbone limited him to just five games. When training camp opens, the starting job likely will be Leinart's to lose. But he's never had a firm grasp on it yet to begin with.

bodies in Clark Haggans (Steelers), Matt Stewart (Browns) and LaBoy, who could also see time at defensive end.

They offer a nice complement to regulars Karlos Dansby and Chike Okeafor, who missed all of last season after undergoing surgery to repair a torn biceps muscle. Arizona also signed Louisiana State's Ali Highsmith as an undrafted free agent. He was seen as a top-rated prospect before a poor performance at the scouting combine dropped his stock.

RATING 7

SECONDARY

The Cardinals exited the draft plenty happy to have nabbed Tennessee State's Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie with the 16th overall pick. He's a playmaker with tremendous upside and will compete for a starting job against incumbents Eric Green and Rod Hood.

With Green in the last year of his contract, Rodgers-Cromartie gives the Cardinals options. Antrel Rolle moves from cornerback to free safety, a move that figures to improve his worth after his career started off slow.

The Cardinals are set at strong safety in Pro Bowl player Adrian Wilson, the anchor of the defense. But depth in the secondary, other than Rodgers-Cromartie, looks slim.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Neil Rackers may never again live up to his Pro Bowl season of 2005, when he was successful on 40 of 42 field-goal tries. He's slipped each of the past two seasons, making 28 in '08 and just 21 in '07. He was three for nine from 50 yards and beyond and hasn't been the automatic kicker he once was in clutch situations.

The Cardinals parted ways with veteran Scott Player during last season and tried Mitch Berger, but they signed Dirk Johnson as a free agent in March and may not be done looking for a permanent punter. Nathan Hodel returns as a very serviceable long snapper.

Steve Breaston emerged as a decent kick returner last season, showing speed and breakaway ability, but he is still raw and learning the position. J.J. Arrington offers additional help, mostly on kickoff return duty.

RATING 6.5

INTANGIBLES

Something needs to be worked out soon regarding wide receiver Anquan Boldin and his contract situation. Though he is signed, he isn't happy that teammate Larry Fitzgerald was awarded a monster restructured deal for having put up similar numbers as he has the past few seasons. Boldin is a leader of the Cardinals, but if he's ambivalent or distracted, the situation could blow up and get worse.

RATING: Minus 1

--Bob McManaman

2007 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 10	at San Francisco (Mon.)	17-20
Sep. 16	SEATTLE	23-20
Sep. 23	at Baltimore	23-26
Sep. 30	PITTSBURGH	21-14
Oct. 7	at St. Louis	34-31
Oct. 14	CAROLINA	10-25
Oct. 21	at Washington	19-21
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Tampa Bay	10-17
Nov. 11	DETROIT	31-21
Nov. 18	at Cincinnati	35-27
Nov. 25	SAN FRANCISCO (OT)	31-37
Dec. 2	CLEVELAND	27-21
Dec. 9	at Seattle	21-42
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	24-31
Dec. 23	ATLANTA (OT)	30-27
Dec. 30	ST. LOUIS	48-19

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	NEW ORLEANS (Thu.)	5:00
Aug. 16	at Kansas City (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	at Oakland (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 29	DENVER (Fri.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at San Francisco	1:15
Sep. 14	MIAMI	1:15
Sep. 21	at Washington	1:00
Sep. 28	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Oct. 5	BUFFALO	1:15
Oct. 12	DALLAS	1:15
Oct. 19	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 26	at Carolina	1:00
Nov. 2	at St. Louis	12:00
Nov. 10	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	6:30
Nov. 16	at Seattle	1:05
Nov. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	2:15
Nov. 27	at Philadelphia (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 7	ST. LOUIS	2:15
Dec. 14	MINNESOTA	2:05
Dec. 21	at New England	1:00
Dec. 28	SEATTLE	2:15

ST. LOUIS RAMS

2007 RECORD: 3-13 | STADIUM: Edward Jones Dome, 66,000, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: T2nd

NFC WEST

www.stlouisrams.com

AT A GLANCE

One Rams Way
St. Louis, MO 63045
(314) 982-7267

TRAINING CAMP:
TBD

COACH:
Scott Linehan, 3rd year with Rams and as NFL head coach (11-21)

PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Jay Zygmunt

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Billy Devaney

VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Tony Softli

DIRECTOR/PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Lawrence McCutcheon

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Al Saunders	Offensive coordinator	26	3
Jeff Horton	Special asst./offense	3	3
Terry Shea	Quarterbacks	8	1
Steve Loney	Offensive line	7	2
Art Valero	*Running backs	7	1
Jim Chaney	Tight ends	3	3
Henry Ellard	Receivers	8	8
Bob Saunders	Offensive assistant	1	1
Keith Murphy	Off. quality control	2	2
Jim Haslett	Defensive coordinator	16	3
Brian Baker	Defensive line	13	3
Rick Venturi	*Linebackers	28	3
Ron Milus	Secondary	9	3
Mike Cox	Def. quality control/asst. DL	2	2
Al Roberts	Special teams	18	2
Todd Downing	Asst. special teams	6	3
Dana LeDuc	Strength & Cond.	14	10
Chuck Faucette	Strength & Cond.	1	1

*Assistant head coach

Good Health Mostly What Rams Need

For every day that passes, it's another 24 hours removed from the excruciating 3-13 record the Rams experienced in 2007.

Amid high hopes emanating from an 8-8 record the season before, the Rams crashed and burned by losing their first eight games of the season. Dropping faster than the losses were players, as the injured reserve list became populated with starters, especially from the offensive line, where that group had only 18 of 80 starts from the projected starters entering the season.

Embattled coach Scott Linehan spent the offseason trying to improve the roster and the coaching staff, while also repairing the psyche of a team that seemed numbed by the losing. Even Linehan acknowledged not being able to handle well the early defeats. Overall, the organization wanted cohesiveness in player development and appeared to have achieved that with the addition of Billy Devaney as executive vice president of player personnel.

Now, with the 2008 season approaching, there is a cautious optimism surrounding the team following a solid free-agency period and what looks to be a productive draft. Devaney put his stamp on things, emphasizing production and character. Of course, it will all be for naught if there is another difficult start.

COACHING

Linehan did some introspection and decided to hand over the reins of the offense to former Redskins offensive coordinator Al Saunders. Oddly, Linehan was originally hired for his offensive prowess, but now will concentrate on being the leader of his entire team.

Saunders will install the same offense run by the Rams before Linehan's arrival, but his philosophy will differ from that of former coordinator/head coach Mike Martz, who tried to build leads with the pass and then run the football. Saunders plans to make running back Steven Jackson the focal point of the offense.

RATING: 7

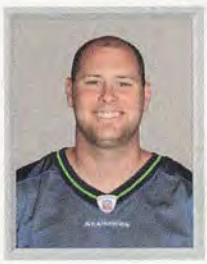
QUARTERBACKS

It was a season to forget for Marc Bulger. Following a season in which he passed for 4,301 yards with 24 touchdowns and just eight interceptions, Bulger hit the skids in 2007 after signing a huge contract at the start of training camp. He suffered broken ribs in the second game of the season, and his game fell apart in conjunction with the offensive line. By season's end, his completion percentage was under 60, the first time that had happened in his career, and he had more interceptions (15) than touchdowns (11), also a career first.

Quarterbacks coach Terry Shea was hired to help with mechanics, but what Bulger needs most

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITIONS:
K Josh Brown



The Rams signed Brown on the first day of free agency after Jeff Wilkins retired, and he will love kicking inside at least eight games every season unlike his experiences in the Seattle rain.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
G Jacob Bell, TE Anthony Becht, WR Reche Caldwell, QB Trent Green, CB David Macklin

KEY LOSS:
WR Isaac Bruce (14/12)*
The only thing stranger than not having the iconic Bruce on the roster will be when he comes to town in December wearing the uniform of the rival 49ers. His ability and quiet dignity will be missed.

OTHER LOSSES:
OG Milford Brown (16/15), TE Dominique Byrd (9/0), LB Brandon Chillar (15/15), QB Gus Frerotte (8/3), DE Trevor Johnson (9/0), C/G Andy McCollum (15/10), G/T Todd Steussie (6/6), TE Aaron Walker (7/3), PK Jeff Wilkins (16/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 8 offense, 10 defense, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

is protection. Trent Green replaces Gus Frerotte as the backup, and for now, Brock Berlin is No. 3 while the team looks for someone else to compete for that spot.

RATING: 7.5

RUNNING BACKS

Injuries also affected Jackson's season. After leading the league in combined yards from scrimmage with 2,334 in 2006, he totaled just 1,273 in 2007, while missing four complete games and one more because of game-day injuries. He is expected to be the fulcrum of the Saunders offense, combining power with speed and breakaway ability. At one point last season, Jackson had three consecutive games with a run of at least 50 yards.

Brian Leonard, who averaged just 3.5 yards an attempt as a rookie, will compete with Antonio Pittman to be Jackson's backup. Travis Minor contributes on special teams. A fullback isn't used much, but one is needed for important short-yardage situations.

RATING: 8

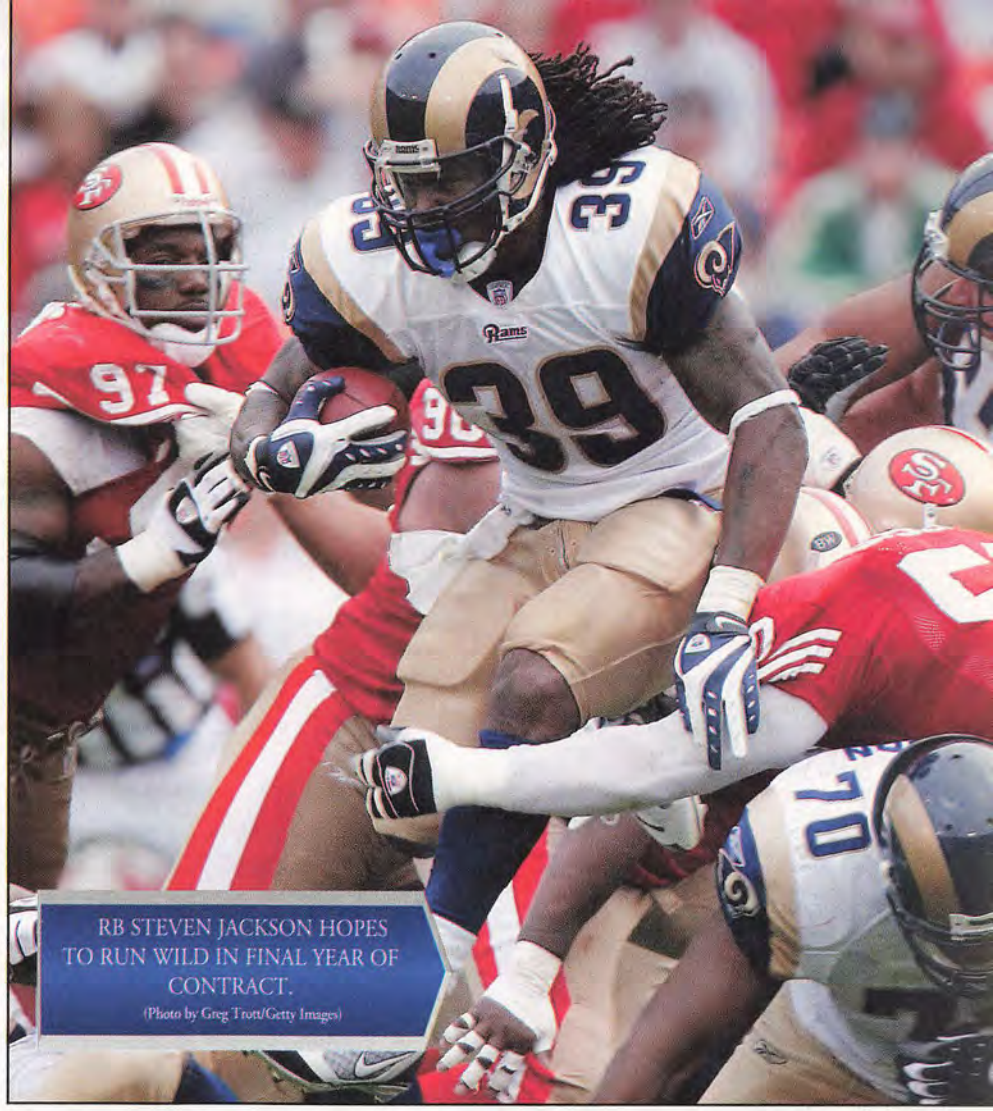
RECEIVERS

Things won't be the same for the Rams without Isaac Bruce around. The 14-year veteran was released in late February, and quickly signed by the rival 49ers. His departure leaves the Rams with Torry Holt and Drew Bennett as the starters, and a gaggle of competition for the remaining three or four jobs.

Holt, 32 in June, is still one of the game's best pass-catchers, but he is battling chronic knee soreness. Bennett was a disappointment last season, as groin and hamstring problems hampered him. He will have to step up to keep defenses from loading the box to stop Jackson.

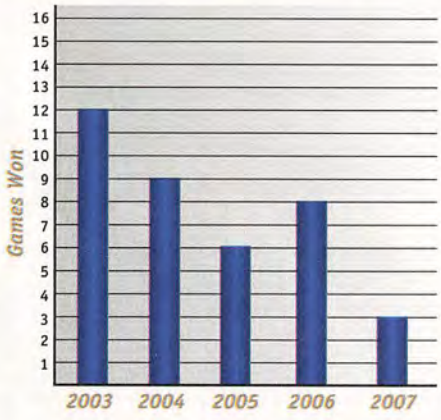
Rookies Donnie Avery and Keenan Burton have speed to burn, and they hope to win spots in competition with Dane Looker, Derek Stanley and Marques Hagans. The Rams entered the draft looking for speed, and they got it with Avery and Burton. At tight end, it is hoped Randy McMichael can catch more passes and not be used in pass protection so much. Anthony Becht should improve the blocking.

RATING: 7



RB STEVEN JACKSON HOPES TO RUN WILD IN FINAL YEAR OF CONTRACT.
(Photo by Greg Trott/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A decimated unit returns three starters from injuries, and how healthy the unit stays will have a lot do with how this team performs on offense. Left tackle Orlando Pace is back from a torn labrum, right guard Richie Incognito had ankle and knee injuries and left guard Mark Setterstrom also had a knee injury. The addition of left guard Jacob Bell from Tennessee will result in Setterstrom battling with Brett Romberg at center. The enigma that is Alex Barron is the right tackle, but he could be pushed by third-round pick John Greco.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The biggest question on the line is how left end Leonard Little will play following off-season toe surgery. Little had one sack in 2007, and also turns 34 in October. James Hall was re-signed to play right end, but coaches expect first-round pick Chris Long to be the starter. The Rams' ends totaled 5.5 sacks last season. Victor Adeyanju is solid against the run.

Inside, 34-year-old La'Roi Glover is entering the final year of his contract, but had six sacks last season. Adam Carriker is recovering from off-season shoulder surgery, and will likely see time at both tackle spots. Nose tackle Clifton Ryan tailed off after a good start to his rookie season, but much is expected this year. Coaches can only hope Claude Wroten figures out how to use his outstanding ability.

RATING: 7.5

LINEBACKERS

He didn't make the Pro Bowl last season, but middle linebacker Will Witherspoon deserved it. He led the team with seven sacks, 132 tackles and 10 passes defensed, while adding nine quarterback pressures. Much of the pass rushing occurred after Little was lost for the season, but Witherspoon was everywhere. Still, this unit needs a healthy Pisa Tinoisamoa to have some stability. He has played a total of just 20 games (nine in 2007) the last two seasons. Tinoisamoa will man the weak side, while the departure of Brandon Chillar in free agency will result in competition between veteran Chris Draft and 2007 undrafted free agent Quinton Culberson

Rams Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
17	Avery, Donnie	5-11	190	R	Houston	0/0	D2 08	D2 STL 08	Rams love his speed, and believe he will contribute as third receiver this season.
87	**Becht, Anthony (TE)**	**6-5**	**280**	**9**	**West Virginia**	**16/2**	**UFA,TB 08**	**D1 NYJ 00**	**Under-the-radar free-agent signing, he should help blocking in the running game.**
83	**Bennett, Drew**	**6-5**	**206**	**8**	**UCLA**	**14/1**	**UFA,TENN 07**	**CFA TENN 01**	**Has to step up after disappointing first Rams season affected by leg injuries.**
14	Burton, Keenan	6-0	202	R	Kentucky	0/0	D4 08	D4 STL 08	Would have been selected higher were it not for succession of college injuries.
86	Caldwell, Reche	6-0	210	7	Florida	8/1	UFA,WSH 08	D3 SD 02	Has the experience, but will be in tough battle for roster spot.
15	Hagans, Marques	5-10	205	2	Virginia	4/1	FA 07	D5 STL 06	Regressed after making the roster last season, and contributed little.
82	*Hall, Dante (KR)	5-8	187	9	Texas A&M	7/1	T,KC 07	D5 KC 00	Age is creeping up, and has to fend off younger, faster kick returners.
81	**Holt, Torry**	**6-0**	**190**	**10**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**D1 99**	**D1 STL 99**	**Playing on chronic bad knee, but still one of the savviest players around.**
88	Klopfenstein, Joe (TE)	6-5	262	3	Colorado	16/11	D2 06	D2 STL 06	Worse in second season than as rookie, has to put '07 behind him and compete.
89	Looker, Dane	6-0	194	7	Washington	13/0	FA 02	CFA STL 00	Had been the holder for retired K Jeff Wilkins; will be in tough roster battle.
84	**McMichael, Randy (TE)**	**6-3**	**255**	**7**	**Georgia**	**16/15**	**FA 07**	**D4 MIA 02**	**Had to help pass protect too often last season; hopes to be more involved as a receiver.**
19	Stanley, Derek	5-11	179	1	Wisconsin-Whitewater	3/0	FA 07	D7 STL 07	Showed something at end of last season, but draft picks increase the competition.
16	Williams, Brandon	5-11	183	3	Wisconsin	10/0	FA 07	D3 SF 06	Never stood out when he played, and it will be tougher this summer.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
70	**Barron, Alex (T)**	**6-7**	**315**	**4**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 STL 05**	**Has all the physical skills, but has to show he wants it.**
63	**Bell, Jacob (G/T)**	**6-4**	**295**	**5**	**Miami, Ohio**	**16/16**	**UFA,TENN 08**	**D5 TENN 04**	**Will step in and lend stability to the left guard position.**
62	Fry, Dustin (C/G)	6-3	314	2	Clemson	4/0	FA 07	D5 STL 07	Coaches like his toughness, but many are competing for limited jobs.
73	*Goldberg, Adam (G/T)	6-7	318	5	Wyoming	4/2	T,MINN 06	CFA MINN 03	Is returning from knee injury to provide experienced depth at tackle and guard.
77	Gorin, Brandon (T)	6-6	308	7	Purdue	11/8	FA 07	D7 SD 01	Started last season after signing off the street; now has to prove he belongs as backup.
79	Greco, John (T)	6-4	326	R	Toledo	0/0	D3 08	D3 STL 08	Might be better suited for guard, but coaches want him to push Barron at right tackle.
68	***Incognito, Richie (G)**	**6-3**	**330**	**3**	**Nebraska**	**4/4**	**D3 05**	**D3 STL 05**	**Must show he can stay healthy and calm a mean streak that results in penalties.**
60	Leckey, Nick (C/G)	6-3	291	5	Kansas State	3/2	FA 07	D6 ARIZ 04	Undersized, but tough, although numbers game appears to be against him.
75	LeVoir, Mark (T)	6-7	306	2	Notre Dame	0/0	FA 07	CFA CHI 06	Inactive for seven games last season, and that isn't likely to change.
76	***Pace, Orlando (T)**	**6-7**	**325**	**12**	**Ohio State**	**1/1**	**D1 97**	**D1 STL 97**	**Is anxious to get back on the field after playing just 11 games the last two seasons combined.**
71	Petitti, Rob (T)	6-6	327	4	Pittsburgh	5/1	FA 07	D6 DALL 05	Injured his Achilles in offseason workouts, and won't be available until at least September.
65	Romberg, Brett (C)	6-2	298	5	Miami	9/9	FA 06	CFA JAX 03	Loves to compete, but lack of size a problem. Competing for starting job again.
67	Schuening, Roy (G)	6-3	320	R	Oregon State	0/0	D5 08	D5 STL 08	Organization believes they got a fifth-round steal in this hard-nosed blocker.
66	***Setterstrom, Mark (C)**	**6-4**	**314**	**3**	**Minnesota**	**3/3**	**D7 06**	**D7 STL 06**	**Starter at guard until '07 knee injury; now will try and win job at center.**
RUNNING BACKS									
39	**Jackson, Steven**	**6-2**	**231**	**5**	**Oregon State**	**12/12**	**D1 04**	**D1 STL 04**	**Runs hard and with passion; offense will be centered around him.**
23	Leonard, Brian	6-1	226	2	Rutgers	16/7	D2 07	D2 STL 07	Too small for fullback, but he can contribute in some situations as tailback.
22	*Minor, Travis	5-10	203	8	Florida State	14/0	UFA,MIA 07	D3 MIA 01	His role is for special teams, where he was one of the team's better players last season.
49	Owens, Richard (FB)	6-4	273	5	Louisville	14/1	FA 07	CFA MINN 04	Doesn't pack enough punch to help as a blocker in short-yardage situations.
30	Pittman, Antonio	5-11	207	2	Ohio State	11/0	W,NO 07	D4 NO 07	Showed some quickness last season, and has opportunity this year to continue improving.
QUARTERBACKS									
13	Berlin, Brock	6-1	215	1	Miami	1/1	FA 07	CFA MIA 05	Will be competing for No. 3 job, but don't know who it will be against yet.
10	**Bulger, Marc**	**6-3**	**212**	**7**	**West Virginia**	**12/12**	**FA 01**	**D6 NO 00**	**Can be one of league's most accurate passers, but has to have protection.**
12	*Green, Trent	6-3	217	14	Indiana	5/5	FA 08	D8 SD 93	His experience and savvy should help Bulger through some of the tough times.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
94	Adeyanju, Victor (E)	6-4	280	3	Indiana	15/7	D4 06	D4 STL 06	Solid against the run, but not much in the way of a pass rusher.
90	**Carriker, Adam (T)**	**6-6**	**308**	**2**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 STL 07**	**Recovering from offseason shoulder surgery; will likely be jack-of-all-trades again.**
97	**Glover, La'Roi (T)**	**6-2**	**290**	**12**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D5 OAK 96**	**Found the fountain of youth last season; production increased with fewer snaps.**
96	Hall, James (E)	6-2	280	9	Michigan	15/15	FA 08	CFA DET 00	Released and brought back this offseason; role will be as situational pass rusher.
91	***Little, Leonard (E)**	**6-3**	**263**	**10**	**Tennessee**	**7/7**	**D3 98**	**D2 ST 98**	**How he comes back from toe surgery will be key to defensive line's ability to rush the passer.**
72	**Long, Chris (E)**	**6-3**	**279**	**R**	**Virginia**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 STL 08**	**Ticketed to start at right end immediately; question is how well he'll rush at this level.**
92	Moore, Eric (E)	6-4	270	4	Florida State	7/1	FA 07	D6 NYG 05	Has some ability, but not enough consistency to be on the field a lot.
95	Ryan, Clifton (T)	6-3	310	2	Michigan State	16/0	D5 07	D5 STL 07	In time, he will be the team's main man on the nose. It could be this season.
99	Wroten, Claude (T)	6-2	295	3	Louisiana State	11/0	D3 06	D3 STL 06	Key year for under achiever to show he cares about getting better.
LINEBACKERS									
57	Chamberlain, Chris (O)	6-1	226	R	Tulsa	0/0	D7 08	D7 STL 08	Has the opportunity to make his presence felt, especially on special teams.
53	**Culberson, Quinton (M)**	**6-1**	**236**	**2**	**Mississippi State**	**14/1**	**CFA 07**	**CFA STL 07**	**Played well in one start, and coaches hope he can be consistent enough to start on strong side.**
52	Draft, Chris (O)	5-11	236	10	Stanford	16/6	UFA,CARO 07	D6 CHI 98	Savvy veteran can play anywhere, and will be there if Culberson falters.
59	McGarigle, Tim (M)	6-0	240	2	Northwestern	12/0	FA 07	D7 STL 06	Has had his chances, but newer players just might pass him by.
50	***Tinoisamoa, Pisa (O)**	**6-1**	**240**	**6**	**Hawaii**	**9/9**	**D2 03**	**D2 STL 03**	**Has to find a way to stay on the field to make consistent presence felt on weak side.**
58	Vobora, David (O)	6-1	236	R	Idaho	0/0	D7 08	D7 STL 08	Always around the ball, and is another young linebacker vying for job.
51	**Witherspoon, Will (M)**	**6-1**	**240**	**7**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**UFA,CARO 06**	**D3 CARO 02**	**Leader of the defense and a tackling machine. He can simply do it all.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	**Atogwe, Oshiomogho (S)**	**5-11**	**210**	**4**	**Stanford**	**16/16**	**D3 05**	**D3 STL 05**	**Last season was a breakout and he looks to ascend more as he approaches free agency.**
24	Bartell, Ron (CB)	6-1	205	4	Howard	16/12	D2 05	D2 STL 05	Versatile corner, safety and nickel back. Competes hard and continues to improve.
41	Bassey, Eric (S)	6-1	200	2	Oklahoma	8/0	FA 07	CFA BUFF 06	Switched from cornerback to provide needed depth at safety. Good on special teams.
34	**Brown, Fakhir (CB)**	**5-11**	**195**	**9**	**Grambling**	**12/12**	**UFA,NO 06**	**CFA SD 99**	**Avoided another suspension, and Rams need him on the field making plays.**
42	*Carter, Jerome (S)	5-11	219	4	Florida State	5/1	FA 08	D4 STL 05	Has never been the big hitter the team envisioned after drafting him three years ago.
25	**Chavous, Corey (S)**	**6-1**	**208**	**11**	**Vanderbilt**	**14/14**	**UFA,MINN 06**	**D2 ARIZ 98**	**Leader in the secondary, but his best days are behind him.**
26	***Hill, Tye (CB)**	**5-10**	**185**	**3**	**Clemson**	**8/7**	**D1 06**	**D1 STL 06**	**Aggressive in coverage and tough competitor; has to be able to stay on the field.**
35	Johnson, Todd (S)	6-1	202	6	Florida	16/1	UFA,CHI 07	D4 CHI 03	Gives it up on every play, and was a standout on special teams last season.
32	King, Justin (CB)	5-11	192	R	Penn State	0/0	D4 08	D4 STL 08	Very raw after starting college career as receiver, but athletic ability is enormous.
27	Macklin, David (CB)	5-10	197	9	Penn State	6/0	UFA,WSH 08	D3 IND 00	Has been around and provides insurance at a vulnerable position.
31	Vinnett, Darius (CB)	5-8	170	2	Arkansas	8/0	FA 07	CFA STL 07	Loves to compete, but lack of size makes it tough.
20	Wade, Jonathan (CB)	5-10	195	2	Tennessee	16/1	D3 07	D3 STL 07	Showed progress as rookie in '07; now must take it to another level.
SPECIALISTS									
3	Brown, Josh (K)	6-0	212	6	Nebraska	16/0	UFA,SEA 08	D7 SEA 03	He'll love kicking inside, and special teams coach Al Roberts will love his kickoffs.
5	Jones, Donnie (P)	6-3	222	5	Louisiana State	16/0	RFA,MIA 07	D7 SEA 01	Kicks them high and long and had Pro Bowl caliber season in 2007.
45	Massey, Chris (LS/FB)	6-0	245	7	Marshall	16/0	D7 02	D7 STL 02	Coaches can remember one bad snap in the six seasons he's been snapping.
9	Medlock, Justin (K)	5-11	201	1	UCLA	1/0	FA 08	D5 KC 07	Only around to take some kicks away from Brown in preseason.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent.

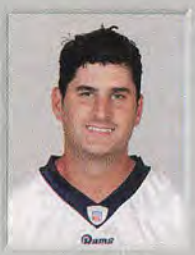
Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Matt Caddell (Alabama), Eric Fowler (1, Grand Valley State), Joshua Hyman (Virginia Tech); TEs Dedrick Harrington (1, Missouri), Doug Jones (Cincinnati); OT Stephen Sene (Liberty); C Donovan Raiola (1, Wisconsin); FBs Brandon McAnderson (Kansas), Russ Weil (Illinois); DEs C.J. Ah You (1, Oklahoma), Rodney Hardeway (Louisiana-Lafayette); DT Vernon Bryant (Hampton); NT Josh Thompson (Auburn); LBs Vince Hall (Virginia Tech), Marc Magro (West Virginia); CB Justin McKinney (Kansas State); P Sean Douglas (1, Washington).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A tougher training camp. Coach Scott Linehan knows a good start is necessary, so he hopes to be tougher in camp and play starters more in preseason games. At press time, he was still hopeful of taking the team out of St. Louis for the first three weeks of camp.
2. Better protection for Marc Bulger. So much depends on the offensive line, but new line coach Steve Loney and offensive coordinator Al Saunders expect to develop cohesiveness from a group that had none last season.
3. Chris Long to be signed on time. The team's front office will work overtime ensuring that Long won't miss practices. He is expected to be the linchpin of the defense, and one oddsmaker installed him as the favorite for Defensive Rookie of the Year.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Marc Bulger



Marc Bulger knows how bad it was in 2007. But he refuses to wallow in the past. This off-season has been about getting right mentally and putting last season's broken ribs and concussion behind him.

"I have to do a better job of preparing — mentally, physically, everything," he said. "There's no reason to go back and beat ourselves up. We know how bad it was and we have to learn from last year, but we are going to focus on this year."

Coach Scott Linehan hired veteran quarterbacks coach Terry Shea to help Bulger with footwork and mechanics.

Said Linehan, "He got to the point — he's human — where he didn't even know who was in the game (on the offensive line) or whether those guys were going to be able to hold them off. Even he got to the point where you started seeing him get into (bad) habits. So I think by fixing that, getting our personnel back to where it needs to be, Marc Bulger's going to be back to the Pro Bowl level."

Bulger hopes that can happen.

"You've got to prove yourself every year," he said. "I'm two years removed from a Pro Bowl, but when you lose, it might as well be 10."

for the strong-side job. Rookies Chris Chamberlain, David Vobora and Vince Hall could also make their presence felt.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

Yes, it's a broken record, but this group was also affected by injuries last season. One starting cornerback, Fakhir Brown, missed the first four games of the season on league suspension. The other starter, Tye Hill, played only eight games. With their starting secondary intact, the Rams were 3-3 last season, 0-10 when someone was missing. Brown won an appeal of another possible suspension this off-season, but his status remains tenuous. One more slip means a year-long ban. Hill is recovering from wrist surgery. Ron Bartell was solid when called upon, but the Rams need Jonathan Wade, a third-round pick last year, to step up, as well as rookie Justin King (fourth round).

At free safety, Oshiomogho Atogwe had a breakout year, leading the NFC with eight interceptions. He becomes an unrestricted free agent in March. Strong safety Corey Chavous is solid, but there is no heir apparent to the 32-year-old's job, although Todd Johnson is strong on special teams. Chavous is also valuable as a mentor to the numerous young defenders.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Rams moved quickly in free agency, signing former Seattle kicker Josh Brown the same day Jeff Wilkins announced his retirement. Brown beat the Rams with two last-minute field goals in 2006. Wilkins kicked with a back problem all last season, and it affected his kickoffs. That is where Brown is expected to shine, in addition to his accuracy on field goals. Donnie Jones gave the Rams the best punting they have had in years, averaging 47.2 yards gross and 39.3 net. Chris Massey is always flawless as the snapper.

There will be a real camp battle for the kick return jobs. Dante Hall had a punt return for a touchdown last season, but played only seven games because of an ankle injury. Stanley looked good in late-season action, but Avery and Burton will also be in the mix.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The schedule-maker didn't do the Rams any favors at the beginning of the season. Their first seven games are against five 2007 playoff teams, including Super Bowl participants New England and the Giants. The two non-playoff teams are 8-8 Philadelphia on the road to open the season and 7-9 Buffalo. Those seven teams were a combined 73-39 in 2007. Getting off to a good start will be difficult.

RATING: Minus 1

—Howard Balzer

2007 RESULTS

Record: 3-13

Sep. 9	CAROLINA	13-27
Sep. 16	SAN FRANCISCO	16-17
Sep. 23	at Tampa Bay	3-24
Sep. 30	at Dallas	7-35
Oct. 7	ARIZONA	31-34
Oct. 14	at Baltimore	3-22
Oct. 21	at Seattle	6-33
Oct. 28	CLEVELAND	20-27
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	at New Orleans	37-29
Nov. 18	at San Francisco	13- 9
Nov. 25	SEATTLE	19-24
Dec. 2	ATLANTA	28-16
Dec. 9	at Cincinnati	10-19
Dec. 16	GREEN BAY	14-33
Dec. 20	PITTSBURGH (Thu.)	24-41
Dec. 30	at Arizona	19-48

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at Tennessee (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 16	SAN DIEGO (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	BALTIMORE (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 28	at Kansas City (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at Philadelphia	1:00
Sep. 14	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00
Sep. 21	at Seattle	1:05
Sep. 28	BUFFALO	3:05
Oct. 5	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 12	at Washington	1:00
Oct. 19	DALLAS	12:00
Oct. 26	at New England	1:00
Nov. 2	ARIZONA	12:00
Nov. 9	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Nov. 16	at San Francisco	1:05
Nov. 23	CHICAGO	12:00
Nov. 30	MIAMI	12:00
Dec. 7	at Arizona	2:15
Dec. 14	SEATTLE	12:00
Dec. 21	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00
Dec. 28	at Atlanta	1:00

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

2007 RECORD: 5-11 | STADIUM: San Francisco Stadium, 69,734, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: T-2nd

NFC WEST | www.sf49ers.com

AT A GLANCE

4949 Centennial Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95054
(408) 562-4949

TRAINING CAMP:
49ers Facility, Santa Clara, CA

COACH:
Mike Nolan, 4th year with 49ers and as NFL head coach (16-32)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Lal Heneghan

GENERAL MANAGER:
Scot McCloughan

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Trent Baalke

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Paraag Marathe

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:
Terry Tumey

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
David McCloughan

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Tom Gamble

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Mike Martz	Offensive coordinator	17	1
Ted Tollner	*Quarterbacks	13	5
Chris Foerster	Offensive line	16	1
George Warhop	Offensive line	12	3
Jerry Sullivan	@Receivers	17	4
Tony Nathan	Running backs	17	1
Pete Hoener	Tight ends	10	4
Adam Gase	Offensive assistant	7	1
Greg Manusky	Defensive coordinator	8	2
Jim Tomsula	Defensive line	2	2
Mike Singletary	*Linebackers	6	4
Johnnie Lynn	Secondary	15	3
Vance Joseph	Assistant secondary	4	4
Jason Tarver	Def. asst./OLB	8	8
Shane Day	Quality control	2	2
Al Everest	Special teams coordinator	12	2
Dave Fipp	Special teams asst.	1	1
Duane Carlisle	Strength and Cond.	4	4
Mark Uyeyama	Strength and Cond.	1	1

*Assistant to the head coach @Senior assistant

Offense Strives to Improve with Martz in Control

Coach Mike Nolan admits the expectations were out of line a year ago when he — and everybody else associated with the San Francisco 49ers — started talking about the playoffs and beyond.

But after falling flat on their faces during the course of a discouraging 5-11 season, nobody is proclaiming the 49ers as a trendy NFC postseason pick this season. And Nolan said he thinks that's just about right.

"Right now, people are probably as accurate as they have ever been about us," Nolan said. "That might sound a little bit like, 'My goodness, you're not optimistic about your team.' But I am. It's just that a year ago, we got a little bit ahead of ourselves."

The 49ers have done a good job of building their defense. That side of the ball is good enough to win a lot of games. However, the offense ranked last in every significant offensive statistic.

The 49ers averaged just 13.7 points per game. The club had fewer than 200 yards net passing in each of the first nine games of the season to run their overall streak to 22 consecutive games over two seasons.

COACHING

The biggest off-season acquisition on offense was the surprise hiring of offensive coordinator Mike Martz, whom the Detroit Lions fired after two seasons. Martz is the 49ers' sixth offensive coordinator in six seasons, and follows Jim Hostler, who was made the scapegoat for last season's problems.

Nolan also made a change on the staff at offensive line. He retained embattled assistant George Warhop, but added Chris Foerster to the staff to oversee the pass protection. Warhop's main responsibility will be coaching the run game.

Defensively, first-year coordinator Greg Manusky worked well with Nolan, a defensive-minded coach.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

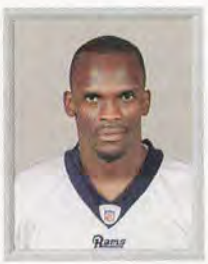
Alex Smith took a major step backward last season after he sustained a separated right shoulder. Smith and Nolan took part in a public rift. Nolan claimed he did not realize Smith was still injured when he tried to return to the lineup after missing two starts. Smith said he believed Nolan tried to undermine him to his teammates.

The men ironed out their differences after the season, according to Smith, and they're looking forward to putting last year behind them. Smith, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2005 draft, will have to earn anything he gets this season.

After third-stringer Shaun Hill played well in 10 quarters of work late in the season with Smith and then-backup Trent Dilfer sidelined with injuries, Nolan said there will be open competition when camp opens this summer. J.T. O'Sullivan, who served as Martz's backup quarterback last season

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Isaac Bruce



Bruce, 35, terrorized the 49ers during his first 14 seasons with the Rams. Now, in the twilight of his career, he becomes an important figure in the 49ers' transition to new offensive coordinator Mike Martz.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
RB DeShaun Foster, WR Bryant Johnson, QB J.T. O'Sullivan, CB/KR Allen Rossum, DE Justin Smith, LB Dontarrious Thomas

KEY LOSS:
DE Bryant Young (16/16)*
The most-respected player in the 49ers' locker room for most of his 14 NFL seasons, Young decided to retire. He led the 49ers with 6.5 sacks. His absence on and off the field will be felt.

OTHER LOSSES:
OG Larry Allen (16/16), QB Trent Dilfer (7/6), DE Marques Douglas (16/16), WR Bryan Gilmore (10/0), OT Kwame Harris (12/0), RB Maurice Hicks (16/0), WR Darrell Jackson (15/15), WR/KR Michael Lewis (13/0), OG Justin Smiley (8/8), LB Derek Smith (15/14), CB B.J. Tucker (0/0), QB Chris Weinke (2/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
16; 8 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

with the Lions, was brought in for insurance.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

Frank Gore has a chance to become the first player in 49ers history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons. Despite having a difficult time on and off the field in 2007, Gore still managed to rank sixth in the NFL with 1,538 yards from scrimmage.

Martz has already determined that Gore will be the centerpiece of his offense, much the same as Marshall Faulk was with the St. Louis Rams during the days of the "Greatest Show on Turf."

The DeShaun Foster signing gives the 49ers a reliable backup who is capable of being a featured back. Michael Robinson will look to gain a more prominent role as the No. 3 running back.

Fullback Moran Norris' future is a bit uncertain after he struggled last season. Also, there are no assurances of the fullback's role in the offense.

RATING: 8

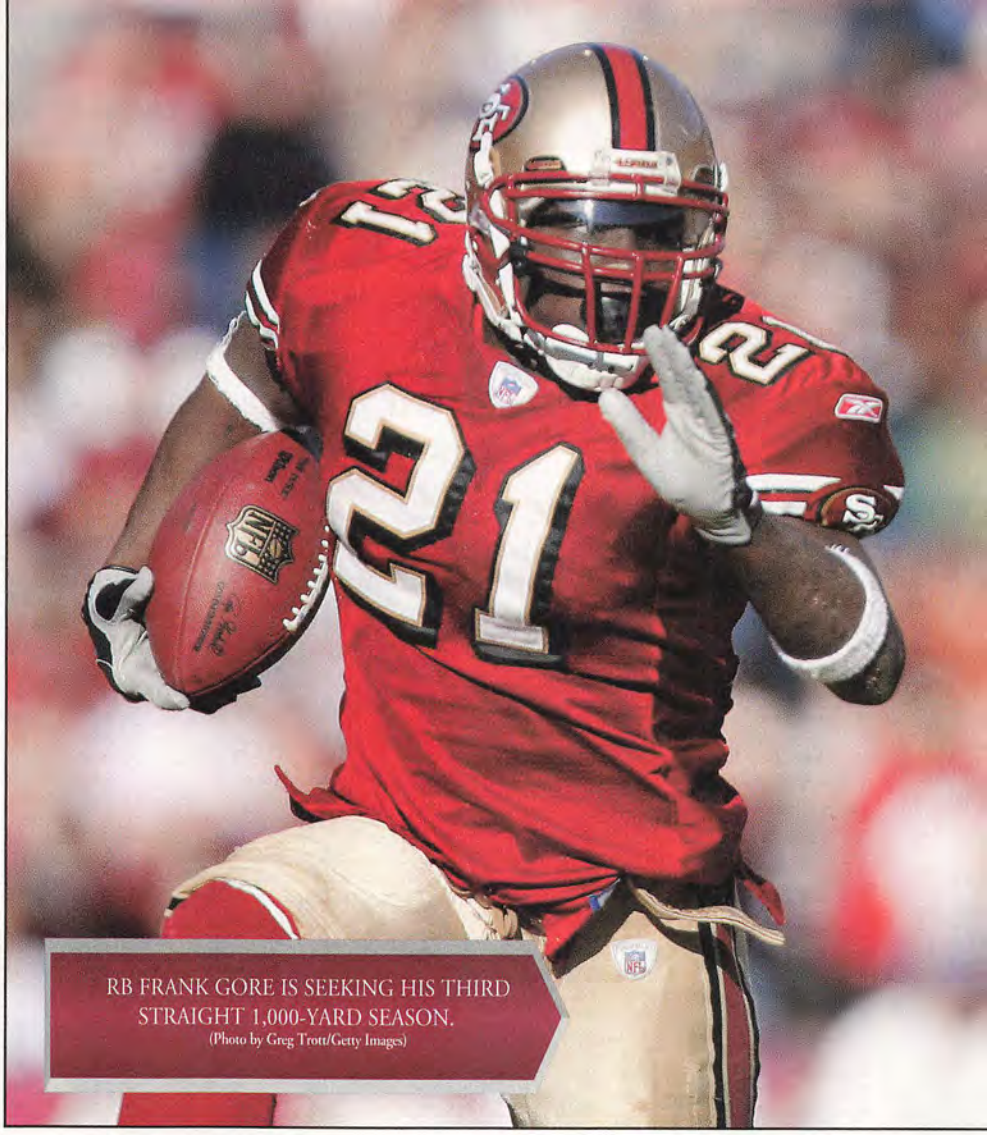
RECEIVERS

The 49ers added two potential starting wideouts with the free-agent signings of Isaac Bruce and Bryant Johnson. Also, the 49ers expect a major leap in production from tight end Vernon Davis, who provides Martz with a lot of possibilities in the passing game.

Arnaz Battle, the team's top wide receiver the past two seasons, will have to win his way back into the starting lineup. At worst, he figures to make a valuable contribution as a slot receiver. Johnson has a chance to be a No. 1 receiver for the first time in his career after spending much of his time with the Cardinals as the No. 3 behind Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin.

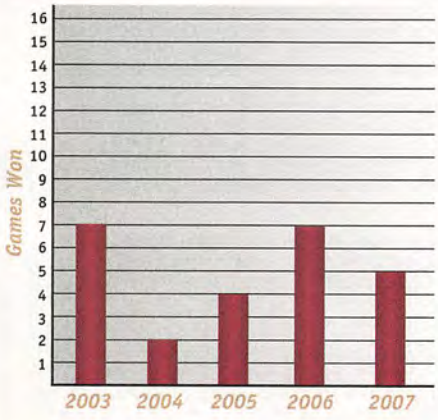
The 49ers wasted little time in acquiring Bruce after the Rams released him in the off-season. Bruce is the only receiver on the roster who has previously worked in Martz's system. Ashley Lelie, Jason Hill and rookie Josh Morgan are also in the picture.

RATING: 7



RB FRANK GORE IS SEEKING HIS THIRD STRAIGHT 1,000-YARD SEASON.
(Photo by Greg Trott/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The 49ers gave up the No. 7 overall pick to the New England Patriots in this year's draft for the right to select Joe Staley a year ago. The 49ers feel the trade was justified by Staley's mostly impressive rookie season at right tackle.

Now, Staley is the 49ers' left tackle, as the club decided to switch high-priced-but-oft-injured Jonas Jennings to the right side. When healthy, Jennings is a solid performer. However, he has been limited to just 21 starts in three seasons with the club.

Adam Snyder is slated to take over for Larry Allen, who appeared to be leaning toward retirement. David Baas was penciled in at right guard before a torn pectoral muscle figured to sideline him into training camp. The 49ers drafted Chilo Rachal in the second round, perhaps as a starter. The 49ers have experienced and heady center Eric Heitmann in the middle to help guide them.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The 49ers spent big bucks at the opening of free agency to sign defensive end Justin Smith. They added lineman Kentwan Balmer in the first round of the draft. Smith and Balmer should help compensate for the losses of 16-game starters Bryant Young (retirement) and Marques Douglas (free agency).

Smith is an every-down lineman who is equally adept at stuffing the run and rushing the quarterback. But it remains to be seen how well he adjusts to playing exclusively in a 3-4 scheme. The 49ers say they plan to move Smith around to take advantage of his versatility. Balmer is not expected to put up big numbers, but he is expected to occupy blockers, thus benefiting those around him.

Isaac Sopoaga and Aubrayo Franklin rotated at nose tackle last season. Sopoaga moves to left end this season after the club re-signed him to a five-year, $20 million contract. Ronald Fields is capable of backing up anywhere on the line.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year Patrick Willis was the 49ers' biggest star last season. Vikings coach Brad Childress described him as a "rolling ball of butcher knives," while Bengals receiver Chad Johnson said he stopped focusing solely on his

49ers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
47	Bajema, Billy (TE)	6-4	258	4	Oklahoma State	14/2	D7 05	D7 SF 05	Used as extra blocker in two-tight end sets, has gone two seasons without a catch.
83	**Battle, Arnaz**	**6-1**	**213**	**6**	**Notre Dame**	**16/15**	**D6 03**	**D6 SF 03**	**Sure-handed wideout has chance to excel with more emphasis on passing game.**
88	**Bruce, Isaac**	**6-0**	**188**	**15**	**Memphis State**	**14/12**	**FA 08**	**D2 RAMS 94**	**Rams released him; Niners quickly targeted him for reunion with Mike Martz.**
85	**Davis, Vernon (TE)**	**6-3**	**253**	**3**	**Maryland**	**14/14**	**D1 06**	**D1 SF 06**	**Shown exceptional blocking and inconsistent receiving in first two seasons.**
89	Hill, Jason	6-0	204	2	Washington State	5/0	D3 07	D3 SF 07	Talented youngster learned as a rookie; now he has a chance to contribute.
82	Johnson, Bryant	6-3	216	6	Penn State	16/8	UFA,ARZ 08	D1 ARIZ 03	Steps out from shadow of Fitzgerald and Boldin to demonstrate his talents.
18	Lelie, Ashley	6-3	193	7	Hawaii	15/3	UFA,ATL 07	D1 DEN 02	Signed as deep threat, but saw limited action and never seemed to fit in.
84	Morgan, Josh	6-0	219	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D6 08	D6 SF 08	Most logical route might be to sit on practice squad for his first season.
46	Walker, Delanie (TE)	6-0	244	3	Central Missouri State	16/10	D6 06	D6 SF 06	Converted receiver should get chance to improve on 21 catches of last year.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	Allen, Larry (G)	6-3	325	15	Sonoma State	16/16	FA 06	D2 DALL 94	Future Hall of Famer is leaning toward retirement, but 49ers are hopeful.
64	Baas, David (G/C)	6-4	331	4	Michigan	15/8	D2 05	D2 SF 05	Niners felt no need to keep Justin Smiley with bigger, stronger Baas ready.
63	Duckett, Damane (T)	6-6	318	4	East Carolina	0/0	FA 07	CFA CARO 04	After he entered league on defense, 49ers saw more potential on other side.
66	**Heitmann, Eric (C/G)**	**6-3**	**318**	**7**	**Stanford**	**16/16**	**D7 02**	**D7 SF 02**	**The only two games he's missed in four seasons were because of broken leg.**
75	***Jennings, Jonas (T)**	**6-3**	**325**	**8**	**Georgia**	**5/5**	**UFA,BUFF 05**	**D3 BUFF 01**	**Has missed all or parts of 32 games with injuries since signing in 2005.**
61	Mitchell, Qasim (T)	6-5	347	5	North Carolina A&T	0/0	FA 08	CFA CLV 02	His line coach in Chicago, Pete Hoener, currently advises 49ers tight ends.
62	**Rachal, Chilo (G)**	**6-4**	**319**	**R**	**Southern Cal**	**0/0**	**D2 08**	**D2 SF 08**	**General manager Scot McCloughan describes him as "poor man's Larry Allen."**
68	**Snyder, Adam (G)**	**6-6**	**326**	**4**	**Oregon**	**16/11**	**D3 05**	**D3 SF 05**	**With Larry Allen not expected back, Snyder figures to start at left guard.**
74	**Staley, Joe (T)**	**6-5**	**306**	**2**	**Central Michigan**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 SF 07**	**Team thrilled with trade to nab a left tackle in first round of '07 draft.**
77	Terry, Jeb (G)	6-5	311	4	North Carolina	0/0	FA 08	D5 TB 04	Vet of 30 NFL games, he was employed in '07 after being released by Tampa.
65	Wallace, Cody (C)	6-4	290	R	Texas A&M	0/0	D4 08	D4 SF 08	After difficult, tragic upbringing not much rattles him on football field.
69	Wragge, Tony (G)	6-4	320	4	New Mexico State	5/0	FA 05	CFA ARIZ 02	Proved worth as backup in '06, but was not pressed into action last season.
RUNNING BACKS									
33	Clayton, Thomas	5-11	225	1	Kansas State	0/0	FA 08	D6 SF 07	Led league in rushing during preseason, but spent Year 1 on practice squad.
29	Foster, DeShaun	6-0	222	7	UCLA	16/16	FA 08	D2 CARO 02	Better-suited for current role as reserve, rather than an every-down back.
21	**Gore, Frank**	**5-9**	**223**	**4**	**Miami**	**15/15**	**D3 05**	**D3 SF 05**	**Strong inside runner has also led 49ers in receptions the past two seasons.**
45	Keasey, Zak (FB)	6-0	245	2	Princeton	13/0	FA 07	CFA WSH 05	Ivy Leaguer was released four times, but stuck around for final 11 games.
44	**Norris, Moran (FB)**	**6-1**	**252**	**8**	**Kansas**	**16/5**	**FA 06**	**D4 NO 01**	**Production as lead blocker slipped dramatically after strong 2006 season.**
24	Robinson, Michael	6-1	228	3	Penn State	15/1	D4 06	D4 SF 06	Valuable backup and special-teams ace was signed to a long-term extension.
QUARTERBACKS									
13	Hill, Shaun	6-3	235	7	Maryland	3/2	FA 06	CFA MINN 02	Holds record for single-game accuracy (81.5) for quarterback making first attempts.
7	Olson, Drew	6-2	222	1	UCLA	0/0	FA 07	CFA BLT 06	He gets full season to compete for roster spot after late November signing.
10	O'Sullivan, J.T.	6-2	227	6	Cal-Davis	4/0	UFA,DET 08	D6 NO 02	Martz saw a passer who fits system from studying 2007 NFL Europe game film.
11	***Smith, Alex**	**6-4**	**212**	**4**	**Utah**	**7/7**	**D1 05**	**D1 SF 05**	**Bay Area fans are growing impatient with No. 1 overall pick of 2005 draft.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
67	**Balmer, Kentwan (T)**	**6-5**	**292**	**R**	**North Carolina**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 SF 08**	**Kind of dirty-work player who can help others around him pad their stats.**
76	*Cohen, Joe (T)	6-2	315	2	Florida	0/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	Spent rookie year on injured reserve with torn knee ligament in preseason.
78	Ellison, Atiyyah (T)	6-3	318	3	Missouri	0/0	FA 07	D3 CARO 05	Plucked from Ravens practice squad, he never dressed in uniform for a game.
93	Fields, Ronald (T)	6-2	321	4	Mississippi State	16/0	D5 05	D5 SF 05	Serves valuable role in rotation with his versatility to play end or nose.
92	Franklin, Aubrayo (NT)	6-1	334	6	Tennessee	14/13	UFA,BLT 07	D5 BLT 03	No-nonsense, blue-collar man serves defense as two-gap technique in middle.
91	McDonald, Ray (E)	6-3	282	2	Florida	9/0	D3 07	D3 SF 07	His unique quickness at the snap is best-utilized as third-down pass-rusher.
96	*Oliver, Melvin (E)	6-3	279	3	Louisiana State	0/0	D6 06	D6 SF 06	After starting 14 games as rookie, second year was lost due to knee injury.
94	**Smith, Justin (E)**	**6-4**	**275**	**8**	**Missouri**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 08**	**D1 CIN 01**	**Niners courted high-priced free agent with helicopter ride of the Bay Area.**
90	**Sopoaga, Isaac (T)**	**6-2**	**325**	**5**	**Hawaii**	**16/5**	**D4 04**	**D4 SF 04**	**After sharing time at the nose, Sopoaga moves to starting job at left end.**
LINEBACKERS									
95	**Banta-Cain, Tully (O)**	**6-2**	**280**	**6**	**California**	**16/10**	**UFA,NE 07**	**D7 NE 03**	**Did not yield desired results after free-agent signing with just 3.5 sacks.**
57	Grant, Larry	6-1	235	R	Ohio State	0/0	D7 08	D7 SF 08	Could fill backup spots while making major contribution on special teams.
54	Green, Roderick (O)	6-2	270	5	Central Missouri State	7/0	FA 07	D5 BLT 04	Pass-rush specialist was cut, but returned for final eight games of season.
55	Haley, Dennis (I)	6-1	247	2	Virginia	2/0	FA 08	CFA NYJ 05	Spent two seasons on Baltimore Ravens practice squad before Niners called.
98	Haralson, Parys (O)	6-0	260	3	Tennessee	16/11	D5 06	D5 SF 06	Started final 11 games of the season; now he must provide more pass rush.
99	***Lawson, Manny (O)**	**6-5**	**247**	**3**	**North Carolina State**	**2/2**	**D1 06**	**D1 SF 06**	**Emerging as all-around linebacker before knee injury cut short his season.**
56	Moore, Brandon (O)	6-1	255	7	Oklahoma	16/1	FA 02	CFA SF 02	Coaches settled on aging Derek Smith to start over top defender from 2006.
58	*Moore, Jay (I)	6-4	270	2	Nebraska	0/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	Struggled in adjustment from line before season-ending injury in preseason.
51	**Thomas, Dontarrious (M)**	**6-2**	**241**	**5**	**Auburn**	**13/0**	**UFA,MINN 08**	**D2 MINN 04**	**Former second-round pick of 2004 could not earn playing time with Vikings.**
53	Ulbrich, Jeff (I)	6-0	240	8	Hawaii	16/2	D3 00	D3 SF 00	Tough-minded vet is in competition to win back starting job he lost in '06.
52	**Willis, Patrick (I)**	**6-1**	**242**	**2**	**Mississippi**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 SF 07**	**Played every snap of every game, never looking like a rookie in first year.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
25	Brown, Tarell (CB)	5-10	194	2	Texas	9/0	D5 07	D5 SF 07	Talented youngster has ability to make contribution in crowded secondary.
22	**Clements, Nate (CB)**	**6-0**	**215**	**8**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**UFA,BUFF 07**	**D1 BUFF 01**	**In first year with 49ers, named co-winner of Walsh Award (MVP) with Willis.**
38	Goldson, Dashon (S)	6-2	208	2	Washington	10/0	D4 07	D4 SF 07	He's tough, physical and has the required ball skills to become a starter.
27	**Harris, Walt (CB)**	**5-11**	**199**	**13**	**Mississippi State**	**15/15**	**FA 06**	**D1 CHI 96**	**Respected vet followed Pro Bowl year with steady season opposite Clements.**
23	Hudson, Marcus (CB)	6-2	198	3	North Carolina State	11/0	D6 06	D6 SF 06	Showed worth as extra defensive back before knee injury cut short season.
28	**Lewis, Keith (S)**	**6-0**	**228**	**5**	**Oregon**	**12/0**	**D6 04**	**D6 SF 04**	**After nine starts in 2006, he went back to familiar role on special teams.**
32	Lewis, Michael (S)	6-1	226	7	Colorado	16/16	UFA,PHA 07	D2 PHA 02	Ranked second on team in tackles, behind Willis, in first year with club.
26	**Roman, Mark (S)**	**5-11**	**203**	**9**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**D2 CIN 00**	**Team would like to see him create more turnovers in his centerfield role.**
20	Rossum, Allen (CB/KR)	5-8	178	11	Notre Dame	15/0	FA 08	D3 PHA 98	Made memorable impression on 49ers with early-season kickoff return for TD.
31	Smith, Reggie (CB)	6-1	197	R	Oklahoma	0/0	D3 08	D3 SF 08	If he does not work out as physical corner, he could move to free safety.
36	Spencer, Shawntae (CB)	6-1	181	5	Pittsburgh	11/1	D2 04	D2 SF 04	Injuries, inconsistency place his role as No. 3 corner in serious jeopardy.
30	Strickland, Donald (CB)	5-10	187	6	Colorado	13/4	FA 07	D3 IND 03	Did solid job of picking up the slack when injuries force him into action.
SPECIALISTS									
86	Jennings, Brian (LS/TE)	6-5	228	8	Arizona State	16/0	D7 00	D7 SF 00	No anxious moments in eight seasons with him handling the snapping chores.
4	Lee, Andy (P)	6-0	185	4	Pittsburgh	16/0	D6 04	D6 SF 04	Emerged as one of the best punters in the league, earning first Pro Bowl.
6	Nedney, Joe (K)	6-5	233	12	San Jose State	16/0	FA 05	CFA GB 95	The only thing he's been lacking with 49ers is more opportunities to score.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Cam Colvin (Oregon), Robert Jordan (California), Jerard Rabb (1, Boise State), Dominique Zeigler (1, Baylor); TEs J.J. Finley (Oklahoma), Cooper Wallace (1, Auburn); OGs John Booker (San Jose State), Brian De La Puente (California); DE Louis Holmes (Arizona); DT Walter Curry (1, Albany State); LBs Lewis Baker (Oklahoma), Ezra Butler (Nevada), Shaun Richardson (Tennessee State), CB Markus Curry (1, Michigan); S D.J. Parker (Virginia Tech); P Ricky Schmitt (1, Shepherd).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Offensive coordinator Mike Martz has never had such a physically talented player at tight end like Vernon Davis. Look for Martz to fully utilize Davis' skills by moving him around the field and finding different ways to get the ball in his hands.
2. Linebacker Patrick Willis was the first 49ers rookie since Ronnie Lott in 1981 to make the Pro Bowl. Willis might be used on more blitzes to create a much-needed pass rush. Three of his four sacks came in the final two games of the season.
3. Although there will be competition, Alex Smith is the presumptive starter at quarterback. But what if Shaun Hill outperforms him in the exhibition season? If Smith wins the job as expected, how much patience are they willing to show the No. 1 pick of 2005?

ON THE HOT SEAT

Mike Martz

His official title is offensive coordinator. It might as well be "offensive troubleshooter." Mike Martz brings an impressive resume in the passing game to the 49ers, and he will certainly be tested in his first season with the club.

The 49ers own a passing attack that has ranked 32nd, 29th and 32nd in three seasons under head coach Mike Nolan. The 49ers averaged a high-school-like 145 yards net passing per game last season. The 49ers did not go out and get a quarterback. They're sticking with Alex Smith, showing faith Martz can turn around his career.

There is reason for hope. After all, Martz helped develop Kurt Warner from an unknown to a two-time league MVP. Marc Bulger and Jon Kitna have also excelled under Martz's direction.

Martz will become Smith's fourth offensive coordinator in four NFL seasons.

"Just look at the track record he had with all those quarterbacks and the way they've played and the numbers they've put up and where they've taken their games," Smith said. "I'm just excited for the chance to reach my potential. I haven't even been there yet since I've been in the NFL. With coach Martz's help, I hope to get there."

matchup with 49ers cornerbacks just so he could marvel at Willis' playmaking ability.

The 49ers parted ways with veteran inside linebacker Derek Smith in the off-season, perhaps opening a starting job for new acquisition Dontarrious Thomas, alongside Willis.

Outside linebacker Manny Lawson should return to full strength after his season was cut short due to a knee injury after two games. The 49ers must find a consistent pass rush at the other position on the outside among Tully Banta-Cain, Parys Haralson and Jay Moore.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

The 49ers' secondary might be the strength of the defense. But the 49ers' pass defense ranked in the bottom third of defenses in the league mostly because of a toothless pass rush. Cornerback Nate Clements had a strong first season with the 49ers. Although he is not considered a "shut-down" corner, Clements does everything well.

On the other side, Walt Harris began to show his age a little at times last season. The 49ers have decent depth at cornerback with Shawntae Spencer, Marcus Hudson, Donald Strickland, Tarell Brown and rookie Reggie Smith.

Strong safety Michael Lewis also played well in his first season with the 49ers. He was particularly strong in run support, but also broke up eight passes. Free safety Mark Roman had a disappointing season with no interceptions.

RATING: 7.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

The 49ers' special teams were among the best in the NFL last season. It is difficult to find a more reliable kicker, punter and long snapper than Joe Nedney, Andy Lee and Brian Jennings.

Lee has improved dramatically in each of his first four NFL seasons. He ranked second in the league in gross (47.3 yards) and net punting (41.0), and dropped an NFL-record 42 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

Because of the 49ers' weak offense, Nedney was given only 19 field-goal opportunities (he made 17 of them). Jennings is considered among the most consistent long snappers in the game.

The 49ers set out to improve their return game with the signing of Allen Rossum, who returned a kickoff for a touchdown against the 49ers for the Steelers last season.

RATING: 9

INTANGIBLES

There is a great sense of urgency entering this season with the head coach and the quarterback facing make-or-break seasons. But this club has not fared well in pressure situations the past few seasons.

RATING: Even

—Matt Maiocco

2007 RESULTS

Record: 5-11

Sep. 10	ARIZONA (Mon.)	20-17
Sep. 16	at St. Louis	17-16
Sep. 23	at Pittsburgh	16-37
Sep. 30	SEATTLE	3-23
Oct. 7	BALTIMORE	7- 9
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	at N.Y. Giants	15-33
Oct. 28	NEW ORLEANS	10-31
Nov. 4	at Atlanta	16-20
Nov. 12	at Seattle (Mon.)	0-24
Nov. 18	ST. LOUIS	9-13
Nov. 25	at Arizona (OT)	37-31
Dec. 2	at Carolina	14-31
Dec. 9	MINNESOTA	7-27
Dec. 15	CINCINNATI (Sat.)	20-13
Dec. 23	TAMPA BAY	21-19
Dec. 30	at Cleveland	7-20

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 8	at Oakland	7:00
Aug. 16	GREEN BAY (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 21	at Chicago (Thu.)	8:00
Aug. 29	SAN DIEGO (Fri.)	7:00
Sep. 7	ARIZONA	1:15
Sep. 14	at Seattle	1:05
Sep. 21	DETROIT	1:05
Sep. 28	at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 5	NEW ENGLAND	1:15
Oct. 12	PHILADELPHIA	1:15
Oct. 19	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Oct. 26	SEATTLE	1:15
Nov. 2	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 10	at Arizona (Mon.)	6:30
Nov. 16	ST. LOUIS	1:05
Nov. 23	at Dallas	12:00
Nov. 30	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec. 7	N.Y. JETS	1:05
Dec. 14	at Miami	1:00
Dec. 21	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 28	WASHINGTON	1:15

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

2007 RECORD: 11-7 | STADIUM: Qwest Field, 67,000, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

NFC WEST

www.seahawks.com

AT A GLANCE

11220 N.E. 53rd Street
Kirkland, WA 98033
(425) 827-9777

TRAINING CAMP:
Kirkland Training Facility, Kirkland, WA

COACH:
Mike Holmgren, 10th year with Seahawks (86-67), 17th year as NFL head coach (170-110)

PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Tim Ruskell

VICE PRESIDENT, PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Ruston Webster

VICE PRESIDENT, FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:
John Idzik

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Will Lewis

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Gil Haskell	*Offensive coordinator	26	9
Mike Solari	Offensive line	20	1
Bill Lazor	Quarterbacks	6	1
Kasey Dunn	Running backs	1	1
Keith Gilbertson	Receivers	7	7
Jim Lind	Tight ends	17	10
Mike DeBord	Offensive assistant	1	1
Chris Beake	Off. quality control	9	1
John Marshall	Defensive coordinator	29	6
Dwaine Board	Defensive line	19	6
Zerick Rollins	Linebackers	8	8
Jim Mora	*Secondary	25	2
Larry Marmie	Asst. secondary	13	3
Tom Headlee	Def. quality control	3	3
Bruce DeHaven	Special teams	22	2
John Jamison	Special teams asst.	4	4
Mike Clark	Strength & Cond.	5	5
Darren Krein	Strength & Cond.	10	10

*Assistant head coach

Can Seahawks Be Super in Holmgren's Last Hurrah?

Despite winning their fourth consecutive NFC West title and advancing to the playoffs for the fifth straight season, the Seattle Seahawks overhauled a good deal of their roster as they head into Mike Holmgren's 10th and final season.

What plagued the Seahawks all last season — the running game — was vehemently addressed by general manager Tim Ruskell, who used the off-season to jettison 2005 MVP Shaun Alexander, sign free-agent running backs Julius Jones and T.J. Duckett, acquire a veteran left guard in Mike Wahle and hire long-time offensive line coach Mike Solari, who was fired as Kansas City's offensive coordinator.

When Ruskell says he is going to fix something, he does not mess around.

Upgrading the running game should take pressure off three-time Pro Bowl quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, who was called on to throw the ball more often last season as the running game continued to sputter.

The question is this: Did Ruskell sign the right guys to accomplish the task?

Jones is compared to Alexander's backup, Maurice Morris, a player who lost his starting job in Dallas to Marion Barber. And Duckett will be playing for his fourth team in four years, indicating some instability with the former first-round pick.

No one is arguing that Alexander should have been retained. But there is the thought that Ruskell should have focused his attention on getting a running back in the first round of the draft rather than going after defensive end Lawrence Jackson.

COACHING

The Seahawks are entering an unprecedented season, with Holmgren already announcing his retirement at the end of the season and defensive backs coach Jim Mora with a contract in hand to replace him. Does this mean Holmgren, with nothing to lose, will be less conservative in his play-calling? Unlikely, but the possibility is there. Does this mean that coaches who are hoping to impress Mora and keep jobs next season will shift their loyalties? Unlikely, but the possibility is there. Perhaps the most important acquisition of the off-season was offensive line coach Mike Solari, who struggled as an offensive coordinator in Kansas City, but who by all accounts is extremely talented with the line. His presence alone should help a running game that was in tatters last season; he is expected to change blocking schemes and teach better technique.

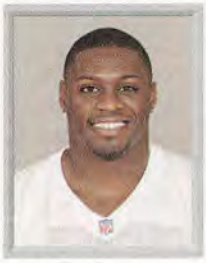
RATING: 8.5

QUARTERBACKS

Hasselbeck is coming off his second-best season as a starter, being named to his third Pro Bowl after a 91.4 passer rating. His production was in part a byproduct of more opportunities when the running game fell apart. He should not have to do as much this season with a lot of emphasis being placed on upgrading the backfield and offensive line. The

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Julius Jones



Though the Seahawks say they are going to replace Shaun Alexander by using a backfield-by-committee, Jones is expected to be the starting back. The biggest drawback is that he has never averaged more than 4.2 yards a carry in his career.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
DT Chris Cooper, RB T.J. Duckett, LB D.D. Lewis, S Omare Lowe, PK Olindo Mare, TE Jeb Putzier, DT Larry Tripplett, OG Mike Wahle

KEY LOSS:
K Josh Brown
Brown had four last-second, game-winning kicks two years ago, and had become known for his icy reputation in crunch time. He departed in free agency, and the Seahawks will settle for an aging veteran, Olindo Mare, or an unproven rookie, Brandon Coutu.

OTHER LOSSES:
RB Shaun Alexander (13/10), OT Tom Ashworth (13/0), LB Kevin Bentley (14/2), K Josh Brown (16/0), DT Chuck Darby (6/6), WR D.J. Hackett (6/6), TE Ben Joppru (13/0), LB Niko Koutouvides (15/0), RB Alvin Pearman (3/0), TE Marcus Pollard (14/10), LS Jeff Robinson (3/0), RB Josh Scobey (4/0), DL Ellis Wyms (13/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 9 offense, 11 defense, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

conundrum with backup Seneca Wallace enters its fifth season: Do they use the supreme athlete in other situations at the risk of getting him injured? They would at least feel more comfortable doing it this year with former Cleveland starter Charlie Frye as the third quarterback.

RATING: 8

RUNNING BACKS

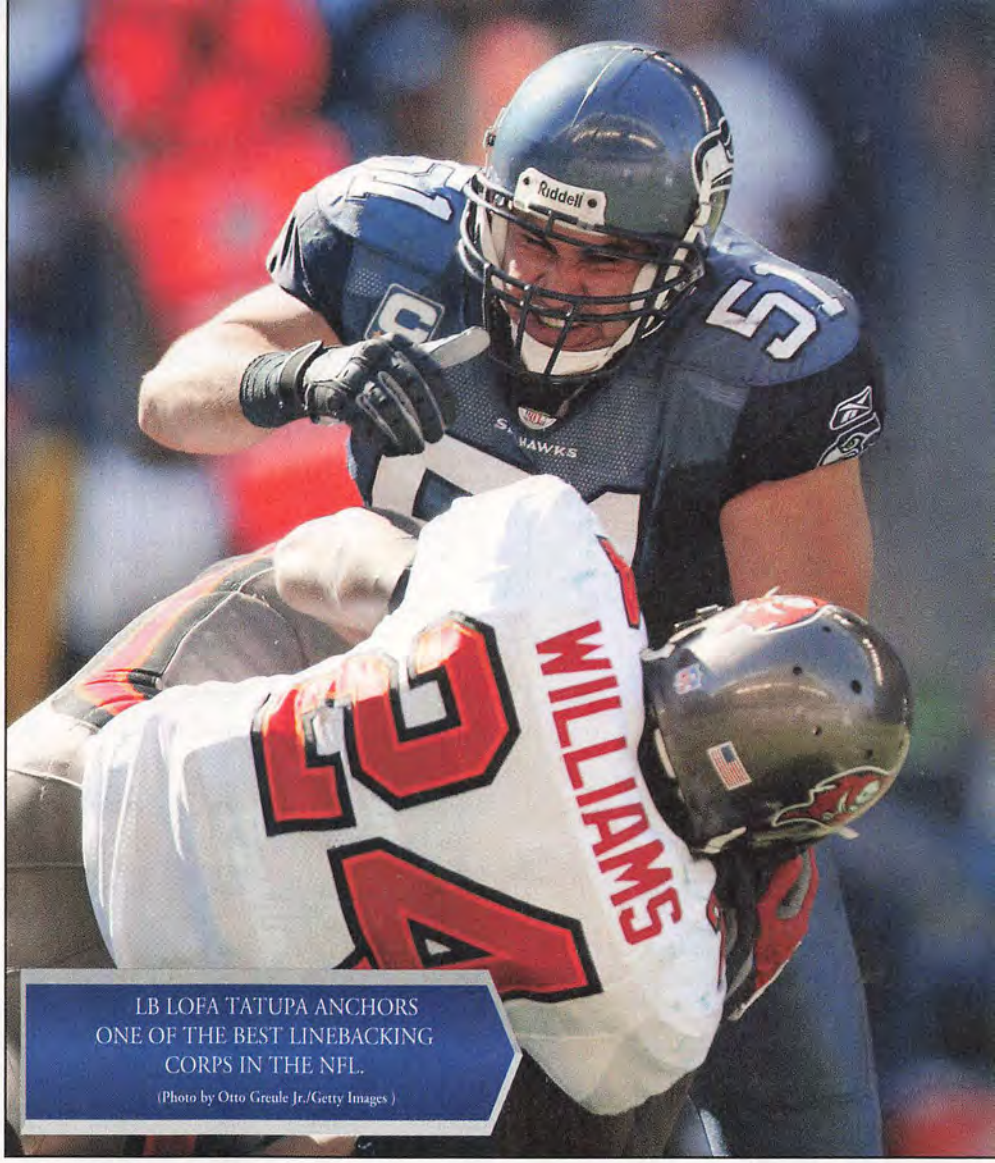
This is perhaps the biggest question mark on the team because there is no telling how newly acquired Julius Jones and T.J. Duckett will fare given spotty histories. Jones lost his starting job in Dallas to Marion Barber amidst reports he ran too softly – which is the same reputation Shaun Alexander had last season. And Duckett is an oversized tailback in a fullback's body, who apparently will be a third-down specialist and change-of-pace back. Maurice Morris is similar to Jones, making Morris in a sense redundant. Fullback Leonard Weaver is a converted tight end who was forced to learn the position quickly after Mack Strong had his career ended prematurely last season. The only player who seems to truly fit his position is rookie fullback Owen Schmitt, a fifth-round choice who is being compared to Tom Rathman.

RATING: 5.5

RECEIVERS

The wide receiver spot went from one of the deepest and most talented to rather thin and inexperienced. Both starters from last year are not immediately available. Split end D.J. Hackett left in free agency and flanker Deion Branch suffered a knee injury in the playoffs last season that is likely to keep him out of at least the first half of the season. That leaves the starting jobs to Nate Burleson, who has equal flashes of brilliance and bonehead plays, and 34-year-old Bobby Engram, who had a career year last season. Behind them are unproven youngsters Courtney Taylor, Ben Obomanu and Logan Payne. At tight end, the Seahawks drafted Notre Dame's John Carlson, who Holmgren said he wants to step right in and start immediately, as well as Will Heller, who is more adept at blocking.

RATING: 6



LB LOFA TATUPA ANCHORS ONE OF THE BEST LINEBACKING CORPS IN THE NFL.

(Photo by Otto Greule Jr./Getty Images)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Seahawks still have one of the top three left tackles in the game in Walter Jones, though Jones underwent his second consecutive off-season shoulder surgery. They also re-signed right tackle Sean Locklear, a solid contributor. The middle three spots are where they had problems last season and they partially addressed that by signing left guard Mike Wahle, who was released by Carolina and will step in for Rob Sims. Thirty-seven-year-old Chris Gray was the right guard last year, but he will compete with Sims, second-year player Mansfield Wrotto and third-year player Ray Willis for that spot. Center Chris Spencer, at times overmatched last year, had off-season thumb surgery. His only backup is Gray.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

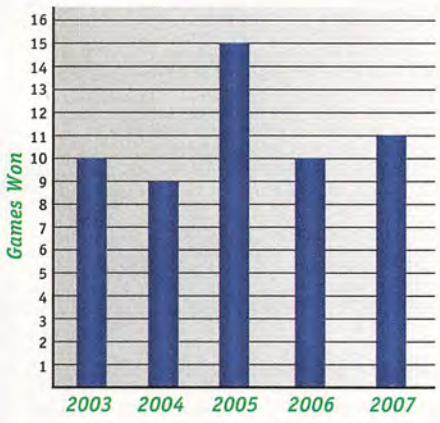
This was augmented by the draft, where Southern Cal's Jackson is expected to compete with right end Darryl Tapp for the starting spot, but will at a minimum be part of a three-man rotation. The Seahawks said they took Jackson because they felt Pro Bowl left end Patrick Kerney wore down last year. Kerney had no stats in the playoff loss to Green Bay. Starting tackles Rocky Bernard and Brandon Mebane are back, and they should be helped by 318-pound rookie Red Bryant from Texas A&M, who is the future son-in-law of Seahawks legend Jacob Green. The biggest question is whether Marcus Tubbs, out for two straight seasons with knee injuries, is able to resume his career or will be forced to retire.

RATING: 7.5

LINEBACKERS

With Lofa Tatupu, Julian Peterson and Leroy Hill, the Seahawks have arguably the best starting linebacking corps in the NFL. Tatupu, named to his first All-Pro team, was signed to a long-term extension in the off-season. But because they lost Kevin Bentley and Niko Koutouvides in free

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007*

Seahawks Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
47	Alcorn, Zac (TE)	6-4	255	2	Black Hills	0/0	FA 08	CFA GB 06	A long shot to make the team after the drafting of John Carlson.
83	Branch, Deion	5-9	192	7	Louisville	11/11	T,NE 06	D2 NE 02	Will miss at least part and possibly all season with a knee injury.
81	**Burleson, Nate**	**6-0**	**198**	**6**	**Nevada**	**16/12**	**RFA,MINN 06**	**D3 MINN 03**	**Most explosive player on the offense needs to have more consistency.**
89	**Carlson, John (TE)**	**6-5**	**251**	**R**	**Notre Dame**	**0/0**	**D2 08**	**D2 SEA 08**	**High expectations after team traded up in second round to take him.**
84	**Engram, Bobby**	**5-10**	**192**	**13**	**Penn State**	**16/13**	**FA 01**	**D2 CHI 96**	**Coming off a career year, there is some concern about his age (35).**
85	Heller, Will (TE)	6-6	270	6	Georgia Tech	16/6	UFA,TB 06	CFA TB 03	Could be used more in a two-tight end set this season.
82	Kent, Jordan	6-4	219	1	Oregon	0/0	FA 08	D6 SEA 07	Great speed and athleticism, but raw in both route running and pass catching.
46	Newton, Joe (TE)	6-7	258	1	Oregon State	0/0	FA 08	CFA SEA 07	On the practice squad last season, the team likes his size and potential.
87	Obomanu, Ben	6-0	206	3	Auburn	13/0	FA 06	D7 SEA 06	A solid fifth receiver needs to run better routes with more chances.
19	Payne, Logan	6-2	205	1	Minnesota	0/0	FA 07	CFA SEA 07	A practice squad player for much of the season rewarded for his diligence.
88	Putzier, Jeb (TE)	6-4	251	7	Boise State	8/1	FA 08	D6 DEN 02	Third tight end should see plenty of time on special teams.
86	Taylor, Courtney	6-1	205	2	Auburn	8/0	D6 07	D6 SEA 07	Likely to be the team's third wideout, moving to split end.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
62	Gray, Chris (G)	6-4	305	16	Auburn	16/16	UFA,CHI 98	D5 MIA 93	Likely to become the backup right guard and backup center.
71	**Jones, Walter (T)**	**6-5**	**325**	**12**	**Florida State**	**15/15**	**D1 97**	**D1 SEA 97**	**The perennial Pro Bowler had offseason shoulder surgery for a second straight year.**
75	**Locklear, Sean (T)**	**6-4**	**308**	**5**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**D3 04**	**D3 SEA 04**	**Signed five-year, $32 million contract that he has to live up to.**
67	**Sims, Rob (G)**	**6-3**	**312**	**3**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 SEA 06**	**Lost his left guard job. Competing for the starting right guard spot.**
65	**Spencer, Chris (C)**	**6-3**	**312**	**4**	**Mississippi**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 SEA 05**	**Former first-round pick had offseason thumb surgery that could delay return.**
69	Vallos, Steve (G)	6-3	312	1	Wake Forest	0/0	FA 08	D7 SEA 07	The future is murky for the 2008 practice squad player.
68	**Wahle, Mike (G)**	**6-6**	**304**	**11**	**Navy**	**16/16**	**FA 08**	**SD2 GB 98**	**Free-agent signee was in Green Bay when Matt Hasselbeck was a rookie.**
74	Willis, Ray (T)	6-6	315	4	Florida State	5/0	D4 05	D4 SEA 05	Injured for much of last season, he is a candidate for starting right guard spot.
77	Womack, Floyd (G)	6-4	328	8	Mississippi State	14/1	D4 01	D4 SEA 01	Back for another year, but the roster is more crowded.
66	Wrotto, Mansfield (G)	6-3	320	2	Georgia Tech	0/0	D4 07	D4 SEA 07	The team would like to see him make a significant jump this year.
RUNNING BACKS									
45	Duckett, T.J.	6-0	254	7	Michigan State	12/1	UFA,DET 08	D1 ATL 02	Will be used almost exclusively as a third-down specialist.
30	Forsett, Justin	5-8	194	R	California	0/0	D7 08	D7 SEA 08	If he makes the team, it will be as a kick returner and other special teams.
22	**Jones, Julius**	**5-10**	**208**	**5**	**Notre Dame**	**16/16**	**UFA,DALL 08**	**D2 DALL 04**	**Has to run harder and with more ferocity than he did in Dallas.**
34	Kirtman, David (FB)	6-0	238	2	Southern Cal	6/0	FA 06	D5 SEA 06	With two running backs drafted, he will have a hard time making the roster.
20	Morris, Maurice	5-11	216	6	Oregon	14/6	D2 02	D2 SEA 02	His role is unclear because he has the same running style as Jones.
35	Schmitt, Owen (FB)	6-2	247	R	West Virginia	0/0	D5 08	D5 SEA 08	Will back up Weaver and will get a lot of opportunities on special teams.
43	**Weaver, Leonard (FB)**	**6-0**	**242**	**3**	**Carson-Newman**	**16/4**	**CFA 05**	**CFA SEA 05**	**Team would like to use him less this year so he can stay more crisp.**
QUARTERBACKS									
5	Frye, Charlie	6-4	217	4	Akron	1/1	T,CLV 07	D3 CLV 05	Should feel more comfortable with a full year to learn the complicated system.
8	**Hasselbeck, Matt**	**6-4**	**225**	**10**	**Boston College**	**16/16**	**T,GB 01**	**D6 GB 98**	**The next step is to lead his team — and his coach — to a another Super Bowl.**
15	Wallace, Seneca	5-11	205	4	Iowa State	10/0	D4 03	D4 SEA 03	With problems at receiver, this may be the time to use him more readily.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
98	*Atkins, Baraka (E)	6-4	268	2	Miami	12/0	D4 07	D4 SEA 07	The fourth-round draft pick had a disappointing rookie season.
52	Babin, Jason (E)	6-3	267	5	Western Michigan	2/0	T,HOU 07	D1 HOUS 04	Acquired in a trade with Houston, he has become a non-factor.
99	**Bernard, Rocky (T)**	**6-3**	**308**	**7**	**Texas A&M**	**14/14**	**D5 02**	**D5 SEA 02**	**His arrest this month calls into question his future with the team.**
79	Bryant, Red (T)	6-4	318	R	Texas A&M	0/0	D4 08	D4 SEA 08	He is the future son-in-law of former Seattle defensive lineman Jacob Green.
91	Cooper, Chris (E)	6-5	285	8	Nebraska-Omaha	12/0	FA 08	D6 OAK 01	Undertaking his second stint with the team, though his role will be small.
94	Green, Howard (T)	6-2	320	3	Louisiana State	5/0	FA 07	D6 HOUS 02	Signed toward the end of last year, he likely does not have big future.
95	Jackson, Lawrence (E)	6-4	271	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D1 08	D1 SEA 08	He is able to be pushed inside over the guard in passing situations.
97	**Kerney, Patrick (E)**	**6-5**	**272**	**10**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**UFA,ATL 07**	**D1 ATL 99**	**The team felt like he wore down toward the end of last season.**
92	**Mebane, Brandon (T)**	**6-1**	**314**	**2**	**California**	**16/10**	**D3 07**	**D3 SEA 07**	**His game became as boisterous as his suits last year.**
55	**Tapp, Darryl (E)**	**6-1**	**270**	**3**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 SEA 06**	**Had four sacks in one game, then completely fell off after breaking hand.**
93	Terrill, Craig (T)	6-2	295	5	Purdue	16/2	D6 04	D6 SEA 04	Along with his band, he recorded and put out a new CD in the offseason.
96	Tripplett, Larry (T)	6-2	296	6	Washington	16/16	FA 08	D2 IND 02	Started for Bills last season; Seahawks hope they found a bargain inside.
90	*Tubbs, Marcus (T)	6-3	318	5	Texas	0/0	D1 04	D1 SEA 04	Team has no idea if he will be able to recover from two straight knee injuries.
LINEBACKERS									
54	Herring, Will (O)	6-3	235	2	Auburn	12/0	D5 07	D5 SEA 07	A converted safety, he will produce mainly on special teams.
56	**Hill, Leroy (O)**	**6-1**	**238**	**4**	**Clemson**	**14/14**	**D3 05**	**D3 SEA 05**	**Recently switched agents and must decide if he wants to negotiate an extension.**
50	Laury, Lance (O)	6-2	237	3	South Carolina	16/0	FA 06	CFA SEA 06	Will go from being the team's sixth linebacker to its fourth.
58	Lewis, D.D. (O)	6-1	241	5	Texas	5/0	FA 08	CFA SEA 02	His previous stint with Seattle was cut short by recurring injuries.
53	Mallard, Wesly (O)	6-1	230	6	Oregon	0/0	FA 08	D6 NYG 02	Signed for competition and depth; needs excellent special teams to win job.
59	**Peterson, Julian (O)**	**6-3**	**240**	**9**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**UFA,SF 06**	**D1 SF 00**	**Pass-rushing should benefit from the additions of Jackson and Bryant.**
51	**Tatupu, Lofa (M)**	**6-0**	**242**	**4**	**Southern Cal**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 SEA 05**	**Signed a six-year, $42 million extension in the offseason.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
27	Babineaux, Jordan	6-0	206	5	Southern Arkansas	16/0	FA 04	CFA SEA 04	Restructured his new contract so the team could sign Tatupu.
24	**Grant, Deon (S)**	**6-2**	**215**	**9**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**UFA,JAX 07**	**D2 CARO 00**	**The team's unofficial disc jockey in the locker room.**
42	Green, Mike (S)	6-0	200	9	Northwestern State	15/1	T,CHI 06	D7 CHI 00	Team hopes he is fully recovered from Lis Franc foot injury.
32	Hobbs, Kevin (CB)	6-0	188	2	Auburn	6/0	FA 07	CFA SEA 06	Former practice squad player has developed into viable backup.
21	**Jennings, Kelly (CB)**	**5-11**	**180**	**3**	**Miami**	**16/15**	**D1 06**	**D1 SEA 06**	**Coaches hope he breaks out the same way Trufant did last year.**
31	*Lowe, Omare (S)	6-1	195	6	Washington	0/0	UFA,ATL 08	D5 MIA 02	Grew up in Puget Sound area and attended Washington.
25	**Russell, Brian (S)**	**6-2**	**210**	**6**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**UFA,CLV 07**	**CFA MINN 01**	**A shining example to all the team's undrafted free agents.**
23	**Trufant, Marcus (CB)**	**5-11**	**197**	**6**	**Washington State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 SEA 03**	**Signed new contract and got married within five days of each other.**
39	*Wallace, C.J. (S)	6-0	218	2	Washington	9/0	CFA 07	CFA SEA 07	Former UW star suffered season-ending knee injury last year.
26	Wilson, Josh (CB)	5-9	192	2	Maryland	12/0	D2 07	D2 SEA 07	The 2007 second-round pick was a disappointment last season.
SPECIALISTS									
7	Coutu, Brandon (K)	5-11	188	R	Georgia	0/0	D7 08	D7 SEA 08	Rookie was 5-for-11 from beyond 50 yards in college career.
3	Hodges, Reggie (P)	6-0	226	2	Ball State	0/0	FA 08	D6 STL 05	Will provide incentive for Plackemeier during training camp.
10	*Mare, Olindo (K)	5-11	190	12	Syracuse	13/0	FA 08	CFA NYG 96	Veteran has had a steadily declining field-goal percentage over three years.
1	Plackemeier, Ryan (P)	6-3	247	3	Wake Forest	16/0	D7 06	D7 SEA 06	Is one of the team's best golfers as well.
48	Schmitt, Tyler (LS)	6-2	231	R	San Diego State	0/0	D6 08	D6 SEA 08	Snapping since fifth grade; has never had an errant snap.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Michael Bumpus (Washington State), Joel Filani (1, Texas Tech), Anthony Russo (Washington); OTs William Robinson (San Diego State), Kyle Williams (1, Southern Cal); OGs Dustin Dickinson (Houston), Pat Murray (1, Truman State); Cs Nick Jones (1, Georgia), Chris White (1, South Carolina); QB Dalton Bell (1, West Texas A&M); RB Dan Curran (New Hampshire); DE Nu'u Tafisi (1, California); DT Kevin Brown (UCLA); LBs Matt Castelo (San Jose State), David Hawthorne (Texas Christian); CBs Donovan Alexander (North Dakota), DeMichael Dizer (Grambling); Ss Jamar Adams (Michigan), Kelin Johnson (Georgia), Eric Wicks (West Virginia).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Will one of the young wide receivers fill the void? With Deion Branch out for half and perhaps all of the season, the Seahawks are relying on either Courtney Taylor, Ben Obomanu or Logan Payne to become a regular contributor. They are very high on Taylor, and they think Payne is very much like Hall of Famer Steve Largent.
2. Will Marcus Trufant have another solid season? He had his best year last season, when he was up for a new contract. Now that he has been bestowed $50 million over six seasons, the Seahawks need him to maintain his focus.
3. Can Matt Hasselbeck stay healthy? Though he was banged and bruised last season, Hasselbeck played all 16 games, the primary reason the Seahawks won their division despite an anemic running game. Seattle needs him to maintain that health.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Mike Holmgren

This is the soon-to-be-retired Mike Holmgren's last season to win another Super Bowl, his latest foray sidetracked in 2005 by the Pittsburgh Steelers — and many in the organization feel by the referees as well. Holmgren has been to three Super Bowls as a head coach, winning in 1997. Most in the organization think the players and coaches will rally around Holmgren in an effort to send him out in a blaze of glory.

His time in Seattle has unquestionably been a success, winning four consecutive division titles after nearly being fired earlier in his stay. But there are those who feel it will be incomplete without a Super Bowl title, particularly after he got so close in '05, and especially after that was the expectation when he was hired away from Green Bay. To that end, general manager Tim Ruskell has given Holmgren virtually all the tools he needs to achieve his goal, including a revamped running game and what they suppose will be the tight end, John Carlson, that Holmgren has not had in his 10 years here. It certainly would be much easier for Holmgren to stay retired if he went out on top rather than feeling he needs to come back and prove himself.

agency, they are thin among the backups, where Lance Laury, D.D. Lewis and Will Herring play. Lewis will be the replacement for Bentley's versatility, while Herring, a converted safety, is still a question mark.

RATING: 8.5

SECONDARY

The weakness of the team two years ago, it is now a strength, with first-time Pro Bowl cornerback Marcus Trufant re-signed to a long-term contract in the off-season on the strength of his seven-interception season. Defensive coordinator John Marshall said he expects the other starting cornerback, Kelly Jennings, to have the type of breakout year Trufant had last season. Safeties Deon Grant and Brian Russell provide steady backup to the corners, and the entire group is coached by Jim Mora. Jordan Babineaux is a very strong nickel back, who can play safety or corner.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

The kicker spot is not yet solidified after Josh Brown left for St. Louis as a free agent. A competition will take place in training camp between veteran Olindo Mare and rookie Brandon Coutu. Mare's accuracy has waned over his 10-year career, but his kickoffs remain deep; Coutu within 50 yards is very accurate, but a hamstring injury has limited his kickoff depth. Punter Ryan Plackemeier lost yards on his net average last year, but pinning teams inside the 20 was much more accurate. The team addressed its ridiculous problems at long snapper last season by drafting San Diego State's Tyler Schmitt, who has never had an errant snap and should be a long-term solution. And Nate Burleson remains one of the league's most exciting kickoff and punt returners behind Devin Hester. He may be helped by rookie Justin Forsett.

RATING: 6

INTANGIBLES

The Seahawks are moving to a new multi-million practice facility in Renton, about 15 miles from their current facility in Kirkland. They did not own their old facility, the land rented from Northwest University, where they were forced to put up an old, smelly, moldy canvas dome when the rainy season hit. Their new facility has two indoor fields and the entire organization will be consolidated under one roof; the business section of the team is currently at Qwest Field, which is in downtown Seattle. CEO Tod Leiweke said it has been one of his biggest priorities since taking over running the franchise because it will make every aspect of the business run more smoothly. The team said it already has used the new facility to recruit players, taking Julius Jones there on his free-agent visit to Seattle.

RATING: Plus 2

— Frank Hughes

2007 RESULTS

Record: 11-7

Sep. 9	TAMPA BAY	20- 6
Sep. 16	at Arizona	20-23
Sep. 23	CINCINNATI	24-21
Sep. 30	at San Francisco	23- 3
Oct. 7	at Pittsburgh	0-21
Oct. 14	NEW ORLEANS	17-28
Oct. 21	ST. LOUIS	33- 6
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Cleveland (OT)	30-33
Nov. 12	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	24- 0
Nov. 18	CHICAGO	30-23
Nov. 25	at St. Louis	24-19
Dec. 2	at Philadelphia	28-24
Dec. 9	ARIZONA	42-21
Dec. 16	at Carolina	10-13
Dec. 23	BALTIMORE	27- 6
Dec. 30	at Atlanta	41-44
Jan. 5	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	35-14
Jan. 12	at Green Bay (Sat.)	20-42

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 8	at Minnesota (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 16	CHICAGO (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 25	at San Diego (Mon.)	5:00
Aug. 29	OAKLAND (Fri.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at Buffalo	1:00
Sep. 14	SAN FRANCISCO	1:05
Sep. 21	ST. LOUIS	1:05
Sep. 28	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 5	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Oct. 12	GREEN BAY	1:15
Oct. 19	at Tampa Bay	8:15
Oct. 26	at San Francisco	1:15
Nov. 2	PHILADELPHIA	1:15
Nov. 9	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 16	ARIZONA	1:05
Nov. 23	WASHINGTON	1:15
Nov. 27	at Dallas (Thu.)	3:15
Dec. 7	NEW ENGLAND	5:15
Dec. 14	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 21	N.Y. JETS	1:05
Dec. 28	at Arizona	2:15

SCOPING THE NFL

By Howard Balzer

Another Year, More Character Issues

Last year, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell made a big issue of trying to weed out the bad characters in the NFL. The question now is whether the teams are getting the message.

Goodell talked about penalizing teams for signing bad apples if they slip again. He is now seriously considering that, especially after being upset at this year's draft.

Why was he upset? Here was one of the league's marquee events being overshadowed by continuing stories concerning the Cowboys' efforts to acquire cornerback Pacman Jones. Less than a month before, he was peppered with questions about Jones by the media at the league meeting in Palm Beach, Fla.

Goodell had to be seething inside to know that the Cowboys were trying to acquire a player under suspension, who is not guaranteed to be reinstated this summer.

We can debate whether the Cowboys should even be bothering with Jones. But even if we accept that was going to happen, why did Cowboys owner Jerry Jones feel compelled to give away a pick this year instead of waiting until after the draft?

Yes, the Cowboys get a fourth-round choice next year from Tennessee if he isn't reinstated, but that doesn't change the fact that they could have had the pick this year. It wasn't as if the Titans had other suitors lining up at their door begging to give a pick this year for Jones.

Of course, now we are back to the discussion of whether this was a wise move. There are those that claim the Cowboys risk little in the deal because they renegotiated Jones' contract, so there is virtually no financial risk.

However, here's what some teams fail to take into account when giving problem players a chance: the guy simply can't be counted on. The risk is in knowing that every time the phone rings, someone will be wondering whether Pacman is in trouble again.

I give you the example of wide receiver Antonio Bryant, who is now on his fourth team after burning bridges in Cleveland, Dallas and San Francisco. The 49ers signed Bryant in 2006, and he was having a solid season. With two games remaining, the 49ers still had an outside chance of making the playoffs. That's when the hammer fell on Bryant, with a four-game league suspension.

Suddenly, he wasn't available, and the 49ers were eliminated from the playoffs after a home loss to Arizona. Obviously, no one knows if they would have won with Bryant on the field. But they certainly would have had a better chance. Instead, Bryant let the team down. And that's the biggest risk of all.

As Cowboys linebacker Bradie James said about Jones, "I don't want to have to rely on him and try to depend on him and then something happens and then he's not there anymore. That's the only thing. Other than that, he can make his own decisions. I don't really know him. We've got a lot of talent. We've got a pretty established group of guys, so he's just going to have to fit right in. He's going to have to get in line when he gets in there."

He should have said "if" he gets there.

Oh, by the way, after missing the entire 2007 season, Bryant was signed in the off-season by the Buccaneers. Maybe he can give Aqib Talib some advice.

PACMAN JONES

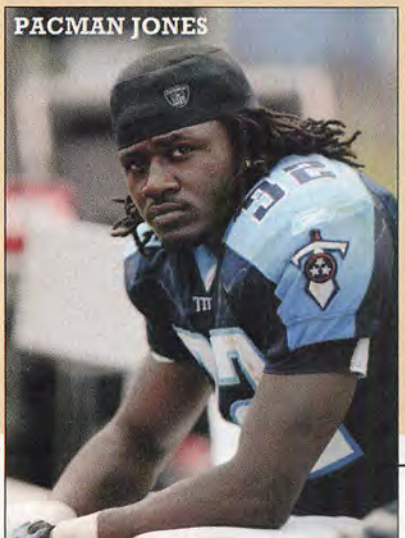


Photo by Paul Jasienski/Getty Images

TALIB AND COMPANY

*** The Kansas cornerback failed three tests during his college career for marijuana, but still ended up being a first-round pick. He was suspended for two games during the 2006 season.**

After being selected 22nd overall, he said, "It was a stage that when I was a young man, moving out of the house, being on your own for the first time, I went through a little stage in college. All of that stuff happened two and a half years ago. That was a stage I went through in my life and I learned a lot from it. I'm a grown man now. I have moved forward from that. It is all behind me now."

MARIO MANNINGHAM

Photo by Evan Pinkus/Getty Images

The Bucs have to hope so, because many players have spoken similar words only to repeat the past when there is a lot of money in their pocket.

*Then there is wide receiver Mario Manningham, who plummeted to the third round of the draft before being selected by the Giants.

At Texas, Manningham failed two drug tests for marijuana, then lied to teams about it during his interviews at the scouting combine.

That mistake was chalked up to being nervous and not being prepared for the combine. But, in this day and age, how can anyone not be ready for the combine? That in itself should be a red flag.

During a conference call after being drafted, Manningham sounded like Mark McGwire testifying before Congress as he said "the past is the past" five times.

Asked whether he thought the Giants made a risky pick, he said, "I don't think I am a risky pick. I don't think that is the issue. Everyone's picks are the same; I mean everyone's picks are different. If different coaches believe in different players, they are going to pick those players, but some players go to other places."

Good answer. Just like the one where he said of his issues: "It happened and you can't take back what happened. Like I told you, I am just going to come in here with a clean head."

The Giants sure hope that head is clean.

General manager Jerry Reese said Manningham convinced the team his problems were behind him.

Said Reese, "He did. He convinced me, he convinced our coaches — and it's well documented — that he made a couple of mistakes. He is a young kid. He is a junior. So hopefully he learned from his mistakes and he will come in here and he will give us a big-play threat on the outside. This guy has got the production you want. He gets big strikes on the outside. And that was attractive for us."

And that is the bottom line.

STORYLINES

What impact will Mike Martz have in San Francisco?

Martz was fired after just two seasons in Detroit, and Lions quarterback Jon Kitna wasn't happy. He goes to the 49ers, where the quarterbacks are Alex Smith, Shaun Hill and J.T. O'Sullivan. Martz will pick the one he believes is best, and then it will be hells bells with the offense.

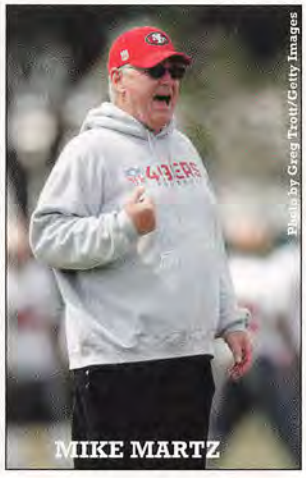


Photo by Greg Trott/Getty Images

MIKE MARTZ

Former Rams coach Dick Vermeil remembers what it was like when he hired Martz in 1999. "I used to say, 'Mike, you make my rear end pucker,' " Vermeil said. "He's so aggressive, but intelligently aggressive. It took me a while to get used to his play-calling. Once we were on the same page — even though it made me nervous — I understood him. He would shock me sometimes."

What will Brett Favre be thinking on Sundays?

Quarterback Brett Favre has retired, while acknowledging he doesn't know what he would say if Packers starter Aaron Rodgers was injured and the team called his Mississippi home.

Asked just before the draft if he thinks about football when he wakes up each morning, Favre said, "Some days there are none, but that's no different than — hate to say it — during the season. There were some mornings when I woke up and said it'd sure be nice not to think about football. At some point, I have to get it in my head that, 'you're not a player no more.' So, when that time comes — I have no idea.

"I feel good about my decision. Once again, this is not to stir the pot, I question it sometimes — 'are you crazy? You know you still love the game.' I don't love all the other stuff that goes along with it."

As for those comments about playing again, he said, "I feel a little bit guilty. My mom brought this up to me. She said there's probably a bounty out on him, Aaron Rogers, now. So, if he gets hurt before the season, it's probably because of you. I said, 'I didn't even think about that.' And that got kind of blown out of proportion as everything does. But, did I say that? Yes. I did say that. But, it was in a conversation like, 'you know if something were to happen to Aaron, it would be tempting, if they called, to come back.'

"But, I was being honest. It would be. I second-guess the decision every day. I second-guessed my decision last year. With everything from a team standpoint and the way I played in my favor, why wouldn't you come back? So I thought about those things, still do. Wonder whether — knowing that I can still play — did I make the right decision? It was the decision that I had to make at that time and I have to live with."

BRETT FAVRE

Photo by Tom Hauck/Getty Images

Consider the pot stirred.

Will Jared Allen be a sack machine in Minnesota?

The Vikings traded a bushel of draft picks to Kansas City and gave a boatload of money to Allen, who led the NFL with 15.5 sacks last season. Of course, those sacks came on a 4-12 team.

How much will the Chiefs miss Allen? When a team official was asked that, the respondent's question was: "How many of those sacks were in the fourth quarter?"

The answer is: Zero.

SAYING GOODBYE

In addition to Favre, several other quality players have walked away from the game this off-season.

Consider this: Favre, quarterback Vinny Testaverde, defensive lineman Bryant Young, wide receiver Rod Smith, defensive tackle Warren Sapp, quarterback Steve McNair, kicker Jeff Wilkins, fullback Mike Alstott, tackle Matt Lepsis, guard Benji Olson and defensive end Mike Rucker played a combined total of 146 seasons. That was led by Testaverde's 21.

By the time training camp starts, tackle Jonathan Ogden and guard Larry Allen will probably have been added to the list.

SCOPING THE NFL

FREE-AGENT SCORECARD: *The Best and Worst*

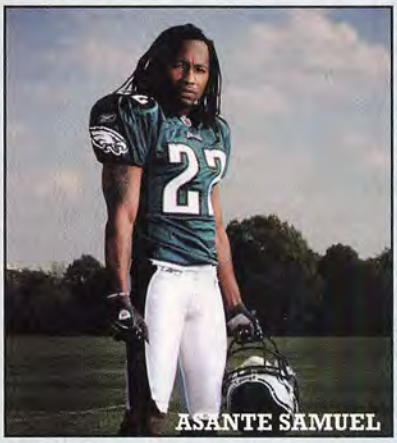
BEST ADDITIONS

Minnesota WR Bernard Berrian: The Vikings paid a steep price, but now there can't be any excuses for QB Tarvaris Jackson.

Jacksonville WR Jerry Porter: Here's a speedy target for David Garrard. The only question is how much does he have left after bad times in Oakland.

Philadelphia CB Asante Samuel: Cornerbacks are getting way too much money, but Samuel makes the Eagles better. The question will be what becomes of Lito Sheppard.

San Francisco WR Isaac Bruce: Someone has to translate the offense from coordinator Mike Martz to the other players.



ASANTE SAMUEL

Photo by Chris McGrath/Getty Images

UNDER THE RADAR

Denver LB Niko Koutouvides: The Broncos throw money at defensive players, but if they are right about Koutouvides, he will play the middle and allow D.J. Williams to return to the outside.

Cincinnati TE Ben Utecht: Just another target for Carson Palmer's passes. That is, if Chad Johnson is back and happy.

Arizona LB Clark Haggans: He knows the coaches from Pittsburgh and will make just $1.5 million for one year. That's called a bargain.

Tennessee DB Chris Carr: He's a good kick returner and is blossoming in the secondary.

HUH?

Any Raiders signing: They guaranteed over $18 million to DL Tommy Kelly, who had ACL surgery last season. Perennially unhappy WR Javon Walker got an $11 million bonus. CB Nnamdi Asomugha was franchised, and CB DeAngelo Hall broke the bank with a new deal and trade. They also have to pay RB Darren McFadden. It's a recipe for disaster.

Any Jets signing: OG Alan Faneca was guaranteed $21 million and LB Calvin Pace $22 million. How much fatter will DT Kris Jenkins get after getting his millions? Coach Eric Mangini has forgotten everything he learned in New England.

Cleveland NT Shaun Rogers: GM Phil Savage is normally savvy, but giving up a third-round pick and CB Leigh Bodden for a roller-coaster talent like Rogers is questionable. It's only a matter of time until he gets hurt.

New Orleans LBs Jonathan Vilma and Dan Morgan: They played a combined total of 10 games last season. Enough said.

Tampa Bay C Jeff Faine: Please. A guaranteed $15 million for a center? Of course, they need a lot of centers to snap the ball to all of their quarterbacks.

STAYING HOME

Carolina re-signed OG Travelle Wharton and franchised OT Jordan Gross. Seattle put the franchise tag on CB Marcus Trufant, and Indianapolis did the same with TE Dallas Clark. Dallas re-signed OT Flozell Adams, while Chicago re-signed LB Lance Briggs, but lost WR Bernard Berrian. Cleveland put QB Brady Quinn on the back burner, by re-signing Derek Anderson, and New England reupped WR Randy Moss with $12 million to sign.

STREAKING

With the departure of Favre, care to guess what player now has the longest streak of consecutive games started?

If you guessed Tampa Bay linebacker Derrick Brooks, you would be correct. Brooks enters the 2008 season with 192 straight starts. In second place is Philadelphia Eagles tackle Jon Runyan with 176.

DERRICK BROOKS

Photo by Joe Robbins/Getty Images

Runyan, by the way, is the last player from the Houston Oilers to be active in the NFL.

Although many believe Favre's string of 253 consecutive regular-season starts for a quarterback is an untouchable record, someone named Peyton Manning might have something to say about that. Perhaps even more impressive than Favre is that Manning's streak of starts began with the first game of his rookie season, and continues now.

With 160 consecutive starts in 10 seasons, Manning would pass Favre if he keeps it going for another six years.

CHECKLIST:

Questions you should ask before you pick a service.

- ☐ Are they football guys or money guys?
- ☐ Do they know the game?
- ☐ Do they see the teams?
- ☐ Do they have a presence in all the college conferences/ NFL cities?
- ☐ Do they track the mid majors?
- ☐ Are they on computer?
- ☐ Do they have a data base on every player on every team?
- ☐ Do they have a line on new starters?
- ☐ Do they have individual player and tandem player ratings?
- ☐ Do they do data mining?
- ☐ Do they do advanced analysis?
- ☐ Do they understand schedule and game situational analysis?
- ☐ Do they know how to equalize for the 24 standard variables?
- ☐ Do they have full team histories and the proper analysis of it?
- ☐ Do they have direct connections to linesmakers and bookmakers?
- ☐ Do they have a wise guy connections?
- ☐ Do they have they have a proven track record of picking winners?
- ☐ Have they done it recently?
- ☐ How far back does their record go?
- ☐ Are they consistent... or up & down?
- ☐ Can they win both in colleges & NFL?
- ☐ Do they know their best games?
- ☐ Do they try to educate you on football handicapping or keep it all a mystery?
- ☐ Do they understand money management theory and application?
- ☐ Can they win right away? Do they win the pre-season?
- ☐ Do they win the College Bowls... the NFL Playoffs
- ☐ How long have they operated under the same name and been at the same address?
- ☐ Do they have customers who've been with them since the day they opened?
- ☐ Do they enjoy a good reputation in the media?
- ☐ How well are they thought of in the gaming industry?
- ☐ How well are they thought of by their paying customers?

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2007 BIG PLAY	DATE	PLAY	SCORE/RESULT	
PRE-SEASON GAME OF YEAR	A30	Steelers (+3½) Panthers	19-3	W
NFL TOTALS PLAY OF MONTH:	S9	Seahawks/Bucs (↓41)	20-6	W
SEPT COLLEGE GAME OF MONTH:	S22	Georgia (+3½) Alabama	26-23	W
NFL UPSET GAME OF MONTH:	S30	Lions (+3) Bears	37-27	W
OCT COLLEGE GAME OF MONTH:	O20	USC (-17½) Notre Dame	38-0	W

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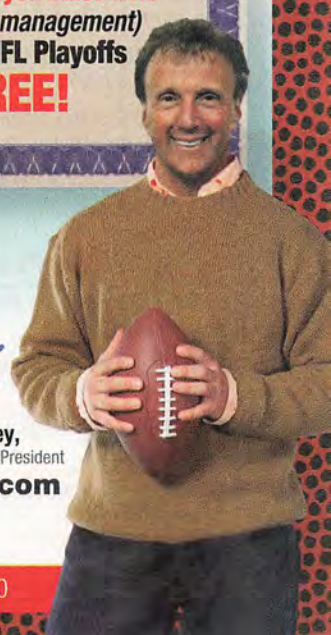

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A STRONG ELBOW

Lions tight end Dan Campbell was getting frustrated. He had surgery twice on a bad elbow, then needed surgery again last season. This time, doctors first reattached his triceps tendon, then looked to make it stronger with an Achilles tendon from a cadaver.

Did that freak out Campbell?

"I said, 'Get it fixed. I don't care what it takes,'" Campbell said. "I did have some questions about, 'Well, how does that work?' You hear about transplants, different organs or stuff like that.

"Actually, that's what he (specialist) said. He said, 'This isn't organs, man. You don't have to worry about it. It's not like your body's going to reject it or something.'"

WELCOME HOME

It was odd when the NFL chose the Saints to lose a home game by playing the Chargers in London on Oct. 26. For all the efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, taking a home game away seemed strange.

Looking at the schedule, Saints fans will have an amazingly long stretch of weeks without seeing their team. The week before the London game, they are in Carolina and will leave from there for Great Britain. The Saints have their bye the week after the game, then even more strangely are on the road for two games at Atlanta and Kansas City.

The result is four straight games away from New Orleans, and after an Oct. 12 game at home against Oakland, they aren't home again until a Nov. 24 Monday night game against Green Bay.

PREDICTIONS
... Do I Have To?

Yes, I do. Why? Because Lindy Davis says so. And he's the boss.

Plus, what would a preseason magazine be without predictions? Everyone makes them, and then usually hope no one picks up the magazine again eight months later.

It's nearly as crazy as nutty draftniks already doing mock drafts for 2009. It's one thing to project the top players, quite another to actually predict the draft order. In May.

But that's a story for another day. Here, you want to know what this astute NFL observer thinks will happen in the NFL, knowing full well it's nigh impossible to know what teams will emerge from almost nowhere, especially in the NFC. The AFC is much more predictable.

That explains getting just one NFC playoff team right in the NFC and three in the AFC. Chicago and New Orleans plummeted last season, while Detroit looked good for half a season. The Giants were better on the road than at home. Who knew? Cleveland coach Romeo Crennel was on the endangered list when the season began, then brought his team home with a 10-6 record.

There will be surprises again. The challenge is figuring them out.

NFC EAST

N.Y. GIANTS – We'll see how they handle life at the top.

DALLAS – Expectations are high; maybe too high.

PHILADELPHIA – Poised to challenge if McNabb is on.

WASHINGTON – Too many questions with inexperienced head coach.

NFC NORTH

MINNESOTA – They're here if Tarvaris Jackson improves enough.

GREEN BAY – Life without Favre will be a distraction this year.

CHICAGO – Rex or Kyle? Might not matter with this offensive line.

DETROIT – Someone has to emerge at running back.

NFC SOUTH

NEW ORLEANS – Maybe the best of a mediocre lot.

CAROLINA – Panthers hopes ride on Delhomme's elbow.

TAMPA BAY – Division title last season was a mirage.

ATLANTA – They need a lot of time to turn this around.

NFC WEST

SEATTLE – They'll probably be pass-happy again.

SAN FRANCISCO – Watch out if Martz finds a quarterback.

ST. LOUIS – Darkhorse if offensive line stays healthy.

ARIZONA – Tough call; they could win a very closely contested division.

WILD CARDS

Dallas, Philadelphia

NFC TITLE GAME

Dallas vs. Seattle

AFC EAST

NEW ENGLAND – Surprise, surprise.

BUFFALO – Bills could be ready to make a move.

MIAMI – Still have a long way to go.

N.Y. JETS – Hard to figure out their plan.

AFC NORTH

CLEVELAND – We'll see if Derek Anderson is for real.

BALTIMORE – Fresh start, and defense is still outstanding.

PITTSBURGH – Big Ben could vault them to the top again.

CINCINNATI – Too many distractions, too bad for Palmer.

AFC SOUTH

INDIANAPOLIS – Still the team to beat in the division.

JACKSONVILLE – One of these days ... but not this year.

TENNESSEE – Fighting to hold off Texans.

HOUSTON – They're better, but division is too tough.

AFC WEST

SAN DIEGO – Easily the cream of this poor crop.

DENVER – There's just something lacking.

OAKLAND – At least McFadden should make it fun.

KANSAS CITY – Chiefs might get that first overall draft pick.

WILD CARDS

Jacksonville, Buffalo

AFC TITLE GAME

Indianapolis vs. San Diego

SUPER BOWL XLIII

Dungy's **Colts** beat the **Cowboys** in his hometown of Tampa, then he stays home for good.

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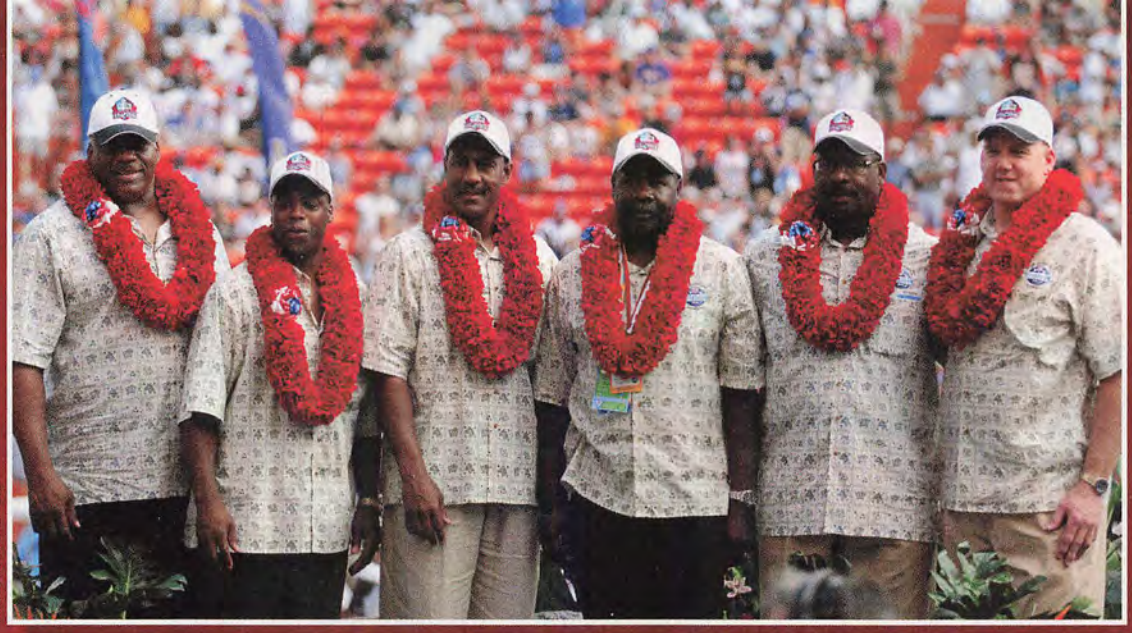


PHOTO BY: KIRBY LEE

REDSKINS TRIFECTA MARKS HALL'S 2008 CLASS

By Alan Ross

It's a semi-rarity when two players from the same team are announced as Hall of Fame enshrinees in the same class. Troy Aikman and Rayfield Wright of Dallas went in together in 2006 and longtime Los Angeles Rams tackle Jackie Slater accompanied defensive end Jack Youngblood in 2001, but three inductees from the same team, same era, in the same year? As rare as a blue moon on Sadie Hawkins Day. But that's what football fans get to see this year, as half of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's six-man Class of 2008 either played or coached for the Washington Redskins, during an eight-year span in the Nation's Capitol when all three careers overlapped, from 1986-93.

Two of the Washington Three: Darrell Green, the durable, lightning-quick cornerback, and Art Monk, the early prototypical big receiver, starred on the field, as did the third inductee. But Emmitt Thomas, who coached both Monk and Green as an assistant under Joe Gibbs from 1986-94, did it on the field for 13 seasons as a physical cornerback for the Kansas City Chiefs (1966-78), playing in two of the first four Super Bowls.

You'd have to go all the way back to the third year of Hall of Fame voting, 1965, to find a similar situation, in which a same-team/same-era trio scenario took place. The Hall's class that year welcomed three Chicago Bears from the 1930s-40s, in a near- identical comparison with the 2008 Redskins' triple play. Guard Danny Fortmann and quarterback Sid Luckman joined early Cardinals/Bears immortal Paddy Driscoll in the Hall. Like Emmitt Thomas, Driscoll was an assistant coach, under George Halas, when both Fortmann and Luckman were players. The preceding year, in just the Hall's second year of operation, 1964, another trifecta of Bears — all of them players from the 1920s and '30s: Ed Healey, Link Lyman and George Trafton — also cruised into pro football's Eden.

For Thomas, the oddity of coaching two Hall of Famers on opposite sides of the ball, though, was singularly unique.

"My first year with the Washington Redskins, Joe Gibbs kept me on the offensive side," says Thomas, 65, currently assistant head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, "so I got a chance to work with Art Monk. The second year I was there, I crossed over to the defensive backfield and was able to work with Darrell for the next eight years. We'd practice against Art and see him every day, so it gave me a greater appreciation for both those young men."

Thomas, as did many others, instinctively felt that Green, whose magnificent 20-year NFL career was spent entirely with Washington, was a no-brainer for enshrinement. "I had always told Darrell, 'Well, you're going in,'" says Thomas of his sterling prodigy. "And the way Art Monk, being a big receiver, would move inside the slots, running optional routes, pairing up against smaller DBs, then pairing up against bigger DBs, I knew he had a good shot (at induction) also. Both of them are great workers, great conditioned athletes, and rank as high as you can go in character. They like to compete; they had a God-given talent. I couldn't be more excited about having gotten to work with both of them, with them taking me to two Super Bowls and winning those Super Bowls as a coach (XXII and XXVI), and then going with them to the Hall, it just blows me through the roof. It's something that I never, never thought of, but it

PHOTO BY: BERNSTEIN ASSOCIATES/GETTY IMAGES

Art Monk of the Washington Redskins moves on the field during a game against the Kansas City Chiefs on November 15, 1992 in Kansas City, Mo.

really happened, and I feel very blessed."

Thomas played in the very first Super Bowl and says the loss to Green Bay is a difficult memory.

"It was of such magnitude," he says of the 35-10 humiliation suffered by the Chiefs. "I saw what it did to our head coach (Hall of Famer Hank Stram) and to the city of Kansas City. On the ride back, we all kind of walked through the plane, saying, 'If we ever get this chance again, we will make sure we win this thing.' We were fortunate enough to go back and win in the fourth Super Bowl."

The five-time Pro Bowler, though he's made his living coaching entirely in the NFC for the past 28 years, admits, "I'm still an AFC guy. I still have AFL running through me at times when I pull for certain teams."

Asked what receiver gave him the most fits, Thomas toasted many greats, like Dolphins/Browns leaper Paul Warfield and the Raiders' unheralded Warren Wells. He also saluted Charley Taylor and the Steelers' tandem of Lynn Swann and John Stallworth. Still, no one gave him fits like the very first Hall of Famer from the old AFL.

"The guy who really broke me into the league and showed me what it was all about was Lance Alworth," says Thomas of the super-athletic San Diego receiver of the 1960s, the first wideout to score over Thomas during his rookie season with Kansas City.

When asked to cite the biggest change in today's game from the era when he played, other than the money, Thomas scolds the young players of the NFL fraternity.

"I don't know if the guys respect the league or one another like we used to," says Thomas, who twice led the league in interceptions during his playing days. "That's the most hurting thing that I run across, in talking to the young men of today. When we played, we knew the guys that played ahead of us. We knew where they were from, their names, who they were. These guys coming into the league now, they don't know the real good guys. They don't have to come back as far as my time, they don't even know the guys at their position that were real good players, who they could try to emulate or get some pointers from. I can kick the young players 'cause I'm an ex-player myself.

"I'll look at a young corner and say, 'OK, what corner played with this team during what years?' or I'll give him a name, 'What team did he play for?' Some of these guys look at you like you're crazy; they don't have a clue. I ask them, 'Dick LeBeau, who's coaching in the league right now? A former head coach, a defense coordinator? This guy's got more picks than I did. Who did he play for?' You ask them about Bobby Boyd (Colts two-time Pro Bowl cornerback and 1960s All-Decade team member). I mean, they don't look it up. If you work in this profession, you should know about the people who were doing your craft before you. You have some respect for it."

Thomas will be presented by his 41-year-old son, Derek, at the induction ceremonies at Canton on Aug. 2.

WINGED MERCURY

If you had to sum up Darrell Green's amazing score of NFL years in a single word, speed would likely top the list. Everyone familiar with Green's career is automatically awed at the span of years that he maintained world-class speed. Winning the NFL's Fastest Man competition four times is also serious gunslinger stuff and entitles the crown wearer to a psychological edge out on the field, even when lined up against the likes of Michael Irvin, Jerry Rice and Cris Carter.

The mercurial Green was the Redskins' first-round pick in the legendary 1983 NFL draft, a class that has yielded an incredible six Hall of Famers to date. As a receivers and tight ends coach for the St. Louis Cardinals back in the early 1980s, fellow 2008 Hall of Fame inductee Emmitt Thomas saw a lot of the young Green.

"I was on the offensive side, so I got a good chance to see Darrell on that side of the ball," says Thomas, later Green's position coach at Washington for eight years. "We had receivers Roy Green and Pat Tilley, who he always matched up against. Darrell was a condition freak. He stayed in condition year round. I knew he would play a long time."

A seven-time Pro Bowler and four-time All-Pro first team selection, Green owns league and club marks, including an NFL-record 19 straight seasons with at least one pass interception and a club record 54 career interceptions. Green also developed a proud and meritorious heritage of community service, named the 1996 winner of the prestigious Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award, an honor given for excellence on and off the field, as well as the Bart Starr Award in 1997 for his humanitarian efforts.

PURE ART

Every year a tale unfolds of some former great waiting in Canton's wings, left unsummoned by pro football's Great Hall. Art Monk, an eight-time finalist, is this year's belated enshrinee poster child.

Part of the famed Washington Redskins "posse," with fellow wide receivers Gary Clark and Ricky Sanders in the mid- to late-'80s, Art Monk, a three-time Pro Bowler, set NFL records for catches in a season (106), most consecutive games with at least one reception (164), and career receptions (820), eventually closing out with 940 total catches.

Over the course of his steady, productive 16-year NFL career, 14 with Washington, Monk played in four Super Bowls, winning the coveted league title on three occasions (XVII, XXII, and XXVI).

"He was a big receiver," remembered his former head coach, fellow Hall of Famer Joe Gibbs. "Art was the inside portion of the three wide receivers, and we used him in a blocking role in there. A lot of the passes he caught were across the middle. He was unselfish; he sacrificed for the team."

A community-minded, compassionate

PHOTO BY: ANDY HAYT/GETTY IMAGES

Defensive lineman Fred Dean of the San Francisco 49ers rushes against the Los Angeles Rams during a circa 1980s game at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, Calif. Dean played for the Niners from 1981-85.

PHOTO BY: BILL VAUGHN / ICON SMI

Darrell Green holds the NFL record for playing 19 consecutive seasons with an interception.

TOP LEFT: The Hall of Fame Class of 2008 is introduced before the Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium. From left: Fred Dean, Darrell Green, Art Monk, Emmitt Thomas, Andre Tippett and Gary Zimmerman.

PHOTO BY: ROD HANNA/NFL PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

Cornerback Emmitt Thomas of the Kansas City Chiefs returns an interception against the Denver Broncos at Municipal Stadium on November 21, 1971 in Kansas City, Mo.

PHOTO BY: KEN LEVINE/ALLSPORT

Andre Tippett of the New England Patriots in action against the Los Angeles Rams at Anaheim - September 13, 1992.

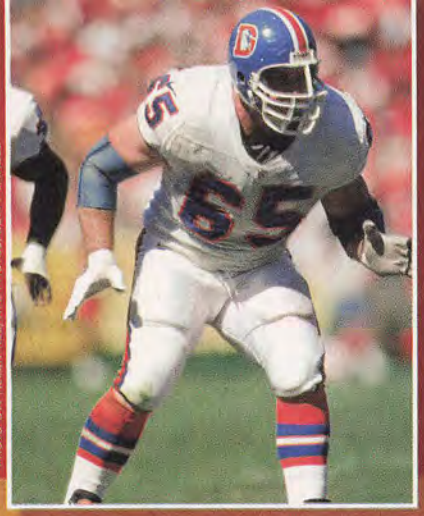


PHOTO BY: ALLEN KEE/NFL PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

Tackle Gary Zimmerman of the Denver Broncos looks to block against the Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium on September 22, 1996 in Kansas City, Mo.

man, Monk, like fellow inductee Darrell Green, is deeply involved with philanthropic work in the Washington, D.C., area with his Good Samaritan Foundation, "serving the underserved," as he says.

His peers have shaken their heads in bewilderment, incredulous it took so long for Monk to gain entrance to the Hall. "The guy was the standard for NFL receivers for years," said former Buffalo Bills receiver Andre Reed, one of this year's 17 finalists. "He should have been in five years ago."

Monk's former teammate, quarterback, Joe Theismann once put together a memorable description of the skillful receiver: "Art was Jerry Rice before Jerry Rice was."

THE DEAN OF DEs

To gain insight into defensive end Fred Dean's overpowering qualities, imagine winning the NFC Defensive Player of the Year award (1981) when taking less than 30 percent of the team's defensive snaps. That's impact.

In that pre-1982 NFL time when no official sack records were kept, Dean was becoming a pass-rushing force, with 15.5 quarterback takedowns in 1978, nine sacks in 1979, and 10.5 in 1980 — all with the San Diego Chargers. Three games into the 1981 season, he was traded to the 49ers. It was to be a seminal campaign for both Dean and San Francisco.

Having only been with his new team 48 hours, Dean unleashed his fury in a victory over Dallas in Week 4, ringing up three sacks, forcing two hurried passes, and batting down two passes, in what author Tom Danyluk, in his book *The Super '70s*, claims was one of the greatest performances "I have ever seen unleashed by a pass rusher." He went on to register 12 sacks in 11 games with the 49ers that year plus another while still with San Diego.

It was late San Francisco Hall of Fame head coach Bill Walsh's decision to convert Dean into a situational pass rusher, a move many credit as the single-most important factor behind the 49ers' first Super Bowl crown in '81. Dean also earned a second Super Bowl ring in 1984 with San Francisco. "We didn't know it at the time," Walsh once said, "but he turned it around. It all started in that first game. He did things that shocked everybody."

A four-time Pro Bowl pick, Dean recorded his career campaign in 1983, logging a monster 17 sacks to lead the NFC. That same year he also set the NFL record of six sacks in a single game, against New Orleans, a mark later broken by late Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Derrick Thomas.

CENTURY MARKER SACKER

There's something neat and clean about saying that a particular player's career was defined by totals settling on a common large round number. In this case, the player is 2008 enshrinee Andre Tippett, and the figure is his career sack total that closed out at 100—not 99, not 100.5, an even 100.

Numbers, though, even tidy ones, rarely tell the entire story. While the New England linebacker of the 1980s and early '90s hit the sack century mark during his 11-year career with the Patriots, peers placed him in a higher category. In much the same manner that the league quickly gained respect for the unearthly ability of crashing outside linebacker Lawrence Taylor, Tippett too earned immense regard from teammates and foes for his game-altering abilities.

In only his third year with the Pats, Tippett shot to the forefront, recording a still-standing team mark of 18.5 sacks and logging his first of five consecutive Pro Bowl appearances.

The following season, the Patriots' Super Bowl year of 1985, Tippett totaled an AFC-high 16.5 sacks, forced three fumbles, and recovered three fumbles. At season's end, he was named AFC Defensive Player of the Year.

"It's more than deserving; it's long overdue," said current New England linebacker Mike Vrabel, on Tippett's selection to the Hall. "You can't talk about outside linebackers without saying Lawrence Taylor and Andre Tippett. To me, this is a guy that rushed, covered, played against the run, and put up a lot of great numbers when linebackers really weren't doing those types of things in the '80s."

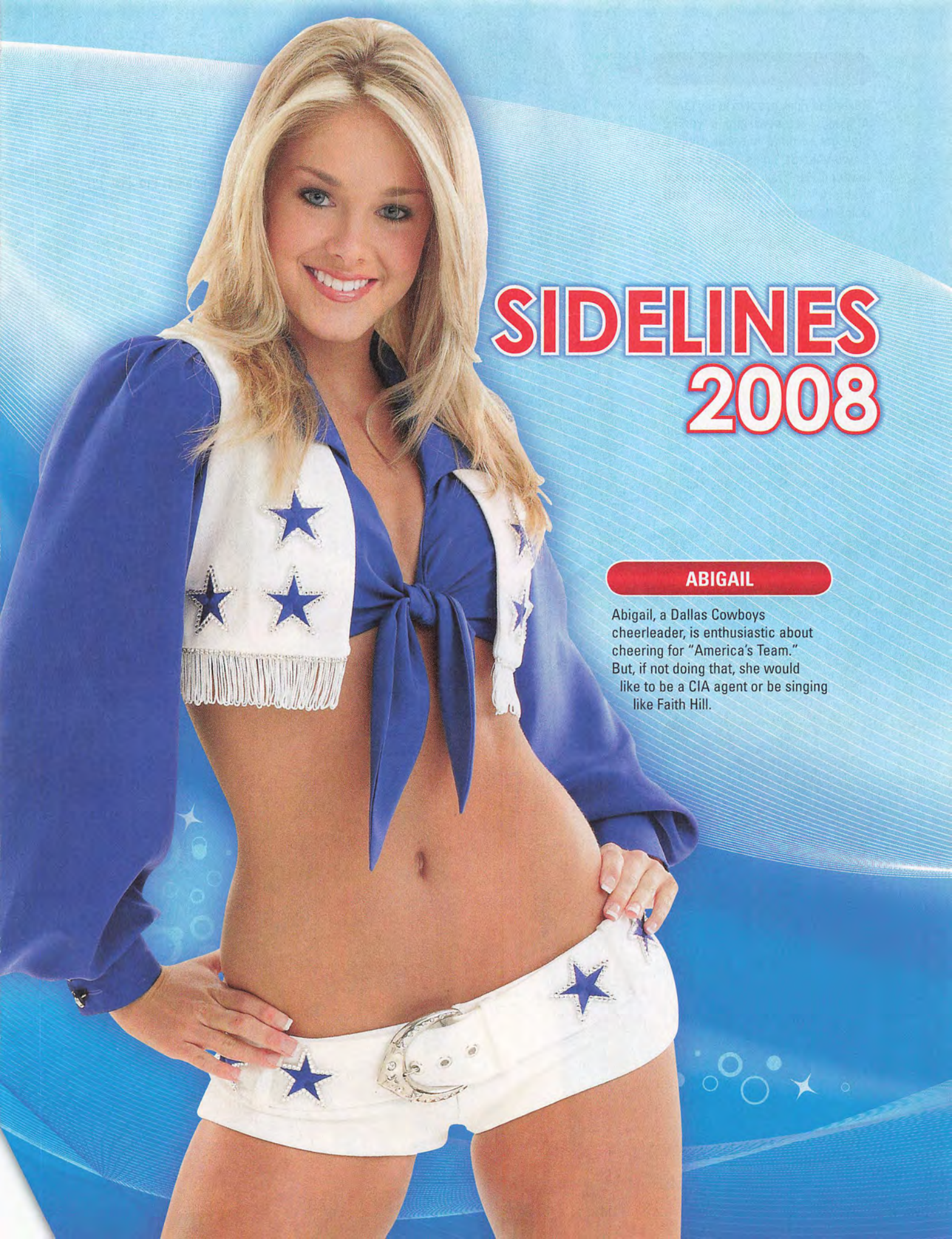
DOUBLE DECADE ALL-STAR

A pile-driving, pass blocking left tackle for the pounding Terrell Davis years in Denver, as well as a four-time Pro Bowl and All-Pro tackle before that with the Minnesota Vikings (1986-92), Gary Zimmerman is one of only a handful of NFL players to be selected to two different All-Decade teams (1980s, 1990s).

A bit of iron can be found in Zimmerman as well. The three-time Pro Bowler with the Broncos played in 169 consecutive games at one stretch of his Minnesota-Denver career. He anchored an offensive line that cleared the way for three of Davis' four spectacular campaigns (1995-97), including the first of the Broncos back-to-back Super Bowls, in 1997, and was the dependable daylight-maker for such great Vikings backs as Darrin Nelson, Herschel Walker and Terry Allen.

"Gary Zimmerman was right up there with Anthony Muñoz as the two finest left tackles that ever played the game," said ESPN analyst Mark Schlereth, who lined up at left guard alongside the Hall of Famer for Zimmerman's final three years in Denver. "Gary was so athletic and was such a technician. But besides his technical play, the guy would beat you down. He would beat you up. You didn't realize how physical he was. And he played with great passion."

In all, Zimmerman was named to seven Pro Bowls and five times (four with Minnesota) was a first team All-Pro selection during his 12-year NFL career. Though he spent two more years in Minnesota than with Denver, Zimmerman never hesitated to say that he felt himself foremost a Bronco. To that end, he has invited Denver owner Pat Bowlen to be his presenter at the induction ceremonies this summer. ■


SIDELINES
2008
ABIGAIL
Abigail, a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader, is enthusiastic about cheering for "America's Team." But, if not doing that, she would like to be a CIA agent or be singing like Faith Hill.

HAILEE

Rusty and Riley are two lucky guys. A golden retriever and a yorkie, they get to hang out with Hailee, a two-year St. Louis Rams cheerleader. Her favorite childhood memory — swimming with dolphins in Hawaii.

LAURA

An Iowa native, Laura moved north to cheer for Minnesota. She has been on the team for six years — three as the captain — and represented the Vikings at the 2008 Pro Bowl.

NATALIE

Natalie has been involved in competitive gymnastics and cheering for seven years, including Washington State Cougar cheerleading. She is now a member of the Sea Gals, leading on the Seattle Seahawks.

LINDSAY, HEIDI, MARIANNE

All three of these young ladies have been dancing since they were little girls ... ballet, jazz, tap, you name it. They all enjoy watching movies and going out to eat — and cheering with the Seattle Sea Gals.

KINDLE

This is Kindle's first year as a Titans Cheerleader. She won't have any trouble kindling interest in the loyal Tennessee fans. Two of her biggest interests are traveling and choreography.

JOHANNA

Four-year veteran 49ers cheerleader Johanna is a student majoring in kinesiology. She came to California from her native El Salvador.

MILLY

Milly graduated from the University of Tampa and stayed around town to pull for the Buccaneers. A brokerage assistant, she is a two-year member of the Tampa Bay cheerleading squad.

SAHARA

You might see a mirage in the desert, but not when you look on the sidelines at this Sahara. A two-year Tampa Bay Buccaneers Cheerleader, the 19-year old public relations major at USF is definitely the real thing.

MORGAN

The San Francisco 49ers made a great catch when they added Morgan to their cheerleading squad. A three-year team member, she enjoys fishing when she is not cheering for the home team.

RACHEL

Rachel, a 21-year old elementary education major at USF, hopes her Tampa Bay team can get back on track toward another Super Bowl. She has been a Buccaneer cheerleader for three years.

RACHEL

A two-year Eagles Cheerleader, Rachel is loyal to Philadelphia … and to her country. An ROTC member at Drexel University, she traveled to Iraq this summer with fellow cheerleaders to support troops there.

ANDREA

It's halfway around the world from Andrea's birthplace (Singapore) to her hometown (Beaumont), but not too far from there to Dallas, where she is a two-year member of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders.

KRISTI

Kristi is an outdoors girl, enjoying camping, swimming, fishing and soccer. A dance scholarship student at Walla Walla Community College, she placed second in the national competition. She is a rookie member of the Seattle Seahawks Sea Gals.

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From Long to Vobora

By Barry Wilner

ARIZONA CARDINALS

B-

1 (16) Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, CB, Tennessee State
No player in this draft at any position surged up the boards more than him ... Has good size and sizzling speed ... Proved in Senior Bowl and workouts that he's ready for big time, although maybe not as a starter yet ... Ran track for TSU, but has football skills to go with world-class speed ... Can be inconsistent.

2 (50) Calais Campbell, DE, Miami
At 6-8, will be tallest defensive lineman in the NFL ... Should be dynamic on kick blocks once he learns better technique ... Not much in run game because he tends to not be physical enough ... Inconsistent performer ... Would have been better off staying with Canes for his senior season, but there's lots of room to grow.

3 (81) Early Doucet, WR, Louisiana State
The latest receiving product from the Bayou, if Doucet is anywhere near as good as Dwayne Bowe was for KC in '07, Cardinals have a bargain ... Has good size, tremendous hands and gets great separation ... Dangerous in the open field ... Weak postseason workouts dropped his stock after he fought injuries in '07 ... When healthy, can make all the catches and goes over the middle ... Precise route-runner ... Has a couple of bad on-field habits; can they be coached into disappearing?

4 (116) Kenny Iwebema, DE, Iowa
Ron Aiken was Iwebema's line coach in college and might be able to motivate him ... Inconsistent player who takes plays off ... Has a variety of moves he uses effectively on pass rush, but doesn't get off the snap that well.

Photo by: Tomasso DeRosa

MATT RYAN

5 (149) Tim Hightower, RB, Richmond
Very productive in one of best I-AA conferences ... Has decent size and is rugged ... Won't get outside much, not a threat to break it ... Can be useful on short-yardage plays and on special teams.

6 (185) Chris Harrington, LB, Texas A&M
Non-stop motor and good size ... Finds his way to the ball, but mostly on run plays ... Not real versatile ... Should help on special teams right away.

7 (225) Brandon Keith, G/T, Northern Iowa
A developmental player who assistant head coach Russ Grimm will work with ... Needs to improve movement and footwork and a variety of other fundamentals ... Can do well protecting QB because of long arms and intelligence ... A project for down the road in Arizona, where he'll likely play guard.

Good Move: Cardinals filled some serious needs early on.

Tell Me Why: Iwebema is an underachiever, but coaching connection helped him get chosen.

Could Surprise: Harrington can be a find if not asked to do too much.

ATLANTA FALCONS

B+

1 (3) Matt Ryan, QB, Boston College
Carried a mediocre offense to a very good season ... Showed more improvement as a passer from junior to senior year than anyone in the nation ... Nice size (6-4, 229) and good vision of the field ... Threw a lot of interceptions in college, in part because of poor routes by receivers ... Might gamble on his arm too often and sometimes aims his throws ... A quick learner and a big-time leader with lots of pressure on him in Atlanta.

1 (21) Sam Baker, T, Southern California
Baker struggled with hamstring injury as a senior after being projected as a first-rounder before 2008 ... Could wind up on right side with Atlanta ... Plays upright, which hinders his movement ... Lacks aggressiveness in pass protection, although he overcomes some of that with his desire and is very intelligent ... The son of Arena League commissioner David Baker.

2 (37) Curtis Lofton, LB, Oklahoma
Should help against inside runs especially ... Also could be a plus on kick coverages ... Will this free Keith Brooking to play outside? ... Lofton makes a lot of plays in the run game, has to learn more about defending the pass ... Also won't do much blitzing.

3 (68) Chevis Jackson, CB, Louisiana State
Good size, moves well, although not a speed demon ... Doesn't get fooled ... Can be aggressive, but sometimes seems to doubt himself in run defense or press coverage ... Comes off good postseason after a national title year with LSU, whose defense was No. 3 in the nation.

3 (84) Harry Douglas, WR, Louisville
Should make adjustment to NFL after playing in pro-style offense Bobby Petrino originally constructed ... Not fast, more of a possession wideout who will play in the slot ... Among the best WRs available when it comes to his hands and his ability to make tacklers miss ... Not much of a blocker.

3 (98) Thomas DeCoud, S, California
Not as active as he could be, particularly against the run ... Has the measurables, and can make plays when he's motivated ... Will catch the ball and also outmuscle some receivers ... Kind of raw.

5 (138) Robert James, LB, Arizona State
Has had some durability problems ... Played well as senior, helping ASU to strong season ... A bit small, moved from safety to LB in college ... Smart and aggressive ... Could be dynamic on kick coverages for Atlanta.

5 (154) Kroy Biermann, DE/LB, Montana
Accomplished player at I-AA level and winner of Buck Buchanan award for best defensive player at that level ... Never stops coming, which helps him offset some physical shortcomings ... Has toughness, too ... Can be overpowered in run game, so might wind up at outside LB.

6 (172) Thomas Brown, RB, Georgia
Probably too small to be full-timer, but might be like Jets' Leon Washington ... Can break big plays, gets into the secondary quickly ... Should be matchup problem as receiver ... Understands the game, is more well-rounded than most Dawgs backs ... Has had some injuries ... Running technique needs some work.

7 (212) Wilrey Fontenot, CB, Arizona
Experienced starter who played opposite first-round pick Antoine Cason this year ... Comes at you every play, but can be overpowered ... Will be better in zone coverage ... Might get a shot on special teams.

7 (232) Keith Zinger, TE, Louisiana State
Missed 2006 season with stomach ailment ... Has lots of experience in big games, including helping Tigers to two national championships ... Intelligent player, good blocker, won't catch a lot of balls ... Could have role on kick teams.

Good Move: Staying put at No. 3, where Falcons had choice of Ryan and Glenn Dorsey.

Tell Me Why: DeCoud might have been a reach in a safety-weak crop.

Could Surprise: Biermann is a very nice I-AA player.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

B+

1 (18) Joe Flacco, QB, Delaware
Tall (6-6) and solid (237 pounds), Flacco is a winner who took Blue Hens to I-AA title game ... Transferred from Pitt and prospered in shotgun offense ... Had superb postseason to raise his stock this high and have Baltimore trade up for him ... Tremendous arm, can find his receivers anywhere on field ... Gets sloppy with technique, but is coachable ... Won't do a lot from outside the pocket.

2 (55) Ray Rice, RB, Rutgers
A winner and big-play performer throughout his career ... A workhorse who finds a hole and spurts through it ... Also has some power to go with moves ... Should be a prime receiver out of backfield and will spell Willis McGahee ... Not tall, can hide behind blockers ... Can pick up blitzers ... Reminds some of Tiki Barber.

3 (71) Tavares Gooden, LB, Miami
Ray Lewis' team takes an inside backer from the U ... Extremely active, finds the ball ... Learns quickly and will be tutored by some of the best in the league ... Makes plays all over the field,

2008 NFL DRAFT

but also can be handled by one blocker at times ... More quick than fast ... Look for him on special teams early on.

3 (86) Tom Zbikowski, S, Notre Dame
Probably best known for his boxing skills, which means he's rugged ... One of the better players on a bad team, a real hitter and special teams demon despite some technical flaws ... Plays the game with passion ... Not real versatile and can be beaten by quick tight ends and backs.

3 (99) Oniel Cousins, T, Texas-El Paso
Very athletic and versatile, might wind up at guard ... Can play both sides ... Needs a good deal of coaching on fundamentals ... Can be effective with his arms and has the strength to pancake a defender ... Sometimes gets caught flat-footed ... Needs to get meaner.

4 (106) Marcus Smith, WR, New Mexico
Big, pretty strong, a former running back ... Has mastered the position pretty well — when he puts out full effort, which doesn't always happen ... Not aggressive enough, either ... Destined for kick coverages and returns.

4 (133) David Hale, G/T, Weber State
Trying to make leap up from being very good at lower college level to contributing in pros ... Played tackle in college, probably isn't athletic enough to be NFL tackle ... Plays hard on every down ... Can get outside to block on sweeps or with moving pocket.

6 (206) Haruki Nakamura, S, Cincinnati
A bit small for strong safety and is not a terrific cover guy ... He is a nasty hitter with an attitude, though ... Fits nicely on special teams and the bruisers on Ravens will like his approach ... Understands the position.

7 (215) Justin Harper, WR, Virginia Tech
Good NFL body and also has come on recently ... Did well in postseason games ... Nice target in red zone ... Needs work on routes and is not fast ... Separation could be a problem at top level.

7 (240) Allen Patrick, RB, Oklahoma
Might develop into third-down back because of quickness to the open field ... Not real durable ... Needs to add some moves to his repertoire ... Should help special teams.

Good Move: Rice is the perfect supplement to McGahee.

Tell Me Why: Zbikowski went high for a likely special teamer.

Could Surprise: Harper will get a chance to show what he can do on receiver-lacking roster.

BUFFALO BILLS
A-

1 (11) Leodis McKelvin, CB, Troy
School that has produced some top defensive players provides Bills with a quick, athletic and agile cornerback ... Finds the ball and goes after it ... Won't get outrun often in any circumstances ... Scouts liked his gutsy play against the run ... Forget about small-school rep, this guy can play right away and will be dynamic returning kicks.

2 (41) James Hardy, WR, Indiana
Several teams fell in love with his measurables, including size and strength ... The major caveats are some serious off-field issues in 2006 and some inexperience ... Can take a hit ... Shows good separation despite not being a speed demon ... Is not a natural.

3 (72) Chris Ellis, DE, Virginia Tech
A fierce competitor who never stops coming, Ellis gets off the ball quickly and has good foot movement ... Needs to get stronger, but not at the expense of his burst ... Could be effective on kick blocks, too ... Worth this spot for Bills.

4 (114) Reggie Corner, CB, Akron
Small, but active and effective ... Comes off good year in a passing conference ... Gets to the ball and can catch it ... Could struggle with taller receivers, unless he gains some strength.

4 (132) Derek Fine, TE, Kansas
Fits better as an H-back ... Will play kick coverages, too ... Makes all the catches asked of from his position, but not a blocker ... Can find the holes in zones, and can get past some LBs ... A situational guy.

5 (147) Alvin Bowen, LB, Iowa State
Very active, comes off pretty good season for bad team ... Smart, works hard, can be a leader ... Likes to rush the passer, but also can be knocked off stride by one blocker ... Run defense is so-so.

6 (179) Xavier Omon, RB, Northwest Missouri St.
One of the best small-college players around ... Has size, power, moves well and doesn't go down easily ... Can be tough in short-yardage situations ... Still, he can be inconsistent and won't break big runs ... Biggest concern is fumbleitis ... Reminds some of Jamal Lewis.

7 (219) Demetrius Bell, T, Northwestern (La.) St.
Son of NBA great Karl Malone, although they are estranged ... Bell also played hoops in college ... Very raw, was a former DL before switching over in 2006 ... Technique needs works, as does strength, but he's quite an athletic specimen.

7 (224) Steve Johnson, WR, Kentucky
Has good size and finds ways to get open ... Improved throughout career with Wildcats, especially as a senior ... Bills loved his pro-style body ... Will make catches in traffic ... Might have trouble getting off the line at this level, which will negate main strength.

7 (251) Kennard Cox, CB, Pittsburgh
Skillful, particularly when he can be physical ... Not fundamentally sound ... Needs to be more aware on running plays and can be fooled ... Missed by one spot of being Mr. Irrelevant.

Good Move: McKelvin will be a boost on returns and eventually in the secondary.

Tell Me Why: Three cornerbacks in seven picks?

Could Surprise: Ellis could be starting very early in his career.

CAROLINA PANTHERS
A-

1 (13) Jonathan Stewart, RB, Oregon
Comes off toe surgery in March, which might have made some teams wary ... Has had a series of injuries, but has come back each time to play even better ... Powerful, can shake off tacklers and get extra yards ... Will be a solid short-yardage guy ... Knows how to protect his QB, too ... Nice receiving skills that endeared him to Carolina this high.

1 (19) Jeff Otah, T, Pittsburgh
Terrific athlete who could play either side, probably will be tried on left so Jordan Gross can stay put ... Panthers traded up for him, sensing too many top tackles were gone, and gave up 2009 first-round spot ... Very strong, a little inexperienced after leaving Juco for Pitt ... Somewhat better as a run blocker.

3 (67) Charles Godfrey, CB, Iowa
A so-so player who never lived up to advance billing with the Hawkeyes ... Didn't progress much through his years in Iowa City ... Very athletic, but very raw despite playing a lot in school ... Can hit.

3 (74) Dan Connor, LB, Penn State
Should be a good fit for Panthers, who have lost quality LBs recently, but have depth there ... Can make plays, but isn't always effective in space ... Smart, fundamentally sound and very coachable ... Might have fit better in a 3-4 alignment, but should be effective if not a star for Carolina.

5 (141) Gary Barnidge, TE, Louisville
Has the size and the height to be effective all-around, especially as a blocker ... Can handle DLs and LBs as a blocker ... A nice target who needs to be used on short routes ... Can be redirected by strong LBs.

6 (181) Nick Hayden, DT, Wisconsin
All-out hustler who gets everything out of what he has ... Trouble is, he doesn't have a lot of athletic ability ... Never backs down ... Very coachable, should improve under Panthers' tutelage ... Helped himself with solid postseason.

JAKE LONG
Photo by: Tomasso DeRosa

7 (221) Hilee Taylor, DE/LB, North Carolina
Could wind up at linebacker ... Not particularly strong, but has enough movement to make effective plays and had 10.5 sacks ... Can be handled by one blocker, particularly massive tackles with good footwork ... A bit inexperienced.

7 (241) Geoff Schwartz, T, Oregon
Huge guy with ability to stand his ground, but doesn't move well ... Has technique issues that must be corrected early ... Was a regular for much of his career with Ducks, so has experience ... A developmental player.

7 (250) Mackenzy Bernadeau, G, Bentley
A tall, physical blocker who understands all the line assignments ... Has some technique problems, particularly moving backward or to the side ... Stood out at Boston College's workout day ... Needs lots of coaching, but making jump from Division II is not impossible for him.

Good Move: Needed another running back, some offensive linemen and a tight end, and got all of them.

Tell Me Why: Connor fell far below where his production indicated he belonged.

Could Surprise: Hayden won't have a lot of competition to become a contributor.

CHICAGO BEARS
C

1 (14) Chris Williams, T, Vanderbilt
Very coachable, learns quickly ... Efficient in all areas, stands out most in pass protection ... Probably can play both sides ... Aggressive and sometimes mean, he won't be outworked ... Likes the game and has some leadership skills ... Big week at Senior Bowl helped his stock.

2 (44) Matt Forte, RB, Tulane
Despite good size, Forte is not necessarily a power back ... A workmanlike runner who doesn't back down, he was by far the best player at Tulane ... Dedicated to the game ... Should help Bears as a receiver out of backfield and could unseat shaky Cedric Benson ... A big Senior Bowl and postseason workouts helped his stock.

3 (70) Earl Bennett, WR, Vanderbilt
Bennett probably should have stayed in school another year and moved into higher echelon on 2009 draft day ... Experienced enough, though, and makes big plays ... Will do his best work against zones ... Other teams probably would have used him returning kicks, but Bears have Devin Hester ... He shows better separation on special teams than as a wideout, though.

3 (90) Marcus Harrison, DT, Arkansas
Some scouts see him making quick transition to pros, others say it will take a couple of years ... Must show better effort at times ... Won't get into the backfield much, particularly on pass plays ... Has good enough power and a solid base.

4 (120) Craig Steltz, S, Louisiana State
Improving player throughout career at LSU ... Instinctive, understands his position ... Not a great athlete, but overcomes it by being where he is supposed to be ... So-so hands, dropped a few INTs in college ... Should do well on special teams for Bears.

5 (142) Zackary Bowman, CB, Nebraska
Is he a workout warrior type? ... Played on terrible defense and didn't stand out positively, but then had strong workouts ... Series of knee injuries made some teams leery ... Chicago liked his long arms and intelligence at his position.

5 (158) Kellen Davis, TE, Michigan State
Inconsistency at quarterback and on O-line didn't help his college performances ... Will be a top-level blocker in pros ... Scouts drool about his body and his measurables, but not about his engine ... Also played DE in some pass-rush situations ... Worth a look here.

7 (208) Ervin Baldwin, DE, Michigan State
Moves well for 270-pounder and can find the quarterback ... Has several good moves on pass rush that helped him to 12.5 sacks for Spartans ... Inconsistent and not always playing on edge.

7 (222) Chester Adams, G/T, Georgia
Has versatility and experience ... Started at guard and tackle for Bulldogs, probably gets his first shot at guard for Bears ... Tall and wide, but not slow afoot ... Needs to upgrade blocking technique.

7 (243) Joey LaRocque, LB, Oregon State
Well-coached player who is almost like a coach on the field ... Reads plays very well, making up for his limitations athletically ... Can be blocked by one opponent and sometimes gets overrun ... Will help on special teams.

7 (247) Kirk Barton, G/T, Ohio State
Hard-working but limited player who never lived up to advance billing ... Had some good games for Buckeyes, but also played poorly in some of OSU's biggest contests ... Intelligent, can learn from his mistakes ... Coachable ... Doesn't move very well and has had injuries to deal with.

7 (248) Marcus Monk, WR, Arkansas
One of the most productive wideouts in Razorbacks history, he runs sharp routes ... Rugged, willing to do the dirty work ... Not particularly fast, although he gets into his patterns quickly ... Not a deep threat ... Has had some injuries.

Good Move: Forte could be the starter very soon.

Tell Me Why: No quarterback prospect was chosen.

Could Surprise: Steltz has a shot to get on the field right away.

1 (9) Keith Rivers, LB, Southern California
Already might be best Bengals linebacker before he plays a down ... Very good to the outside, makes plays sideline to sideline ... Needs to add some strength and improve mechanics against the run ... Cincinnati needs to use him as pass rusher more than in coverage, but he can do both ... It's been a while since Bengals have had a consistent playmaking LB; Rivers could be that guy.

2 (46) Jerome Simpson, WR, Coastal Carolina
Good size and hands ... Had some good postseason workouts and games ... A bit raw, has a lot to learn about running his patterns ... Won't do much as a blocker ... Making a huge jump up in competition.

3 (77) Pat Sims, DT, Auburn
Sims could have used another year in school, but came out after junior season ... Something of a slacker who also needs to get more serious in the weight room ... Has natural skills ... Does best work against the run — when he's paying attention ... Not much of a threat for sacks.

3 (97) Andre Caldwell, WR, Florida
Productive younger brother of NFL receiver Reche ... Made some brilliant catches for Gators ... Very fast off the line and well-schooled in route-running ... Won't back down ... Has had some injury issues, but convinced most teams he was healthy enough to consider ... Bengals could use Caldwell as kick returner, too.

4 (112) Anthony Collins, T, Kansas
Bengals are worried about injuries at the position ... Inconsistent performer who often needs a jump-start ... Played pretty well in spurts throughout career and did good job for much of Kansas' big 2007 season ... Can pancake rushers ... Certainly would have benefited by spending senior season in school.

5 (145) Jason Shirley, DT, Fresno State
At 6-5, 330, one of the biggest players in the draft ... Moves quite well for his size and can help collapse pass protection ... Doesn't have a non-stop motor and gets down on himself ... There also have been questions about his dedication and he has off-field issues.

6 (177) Corey Lynch, S, Appalachian State
Good size, and a playmaker ... Led Appalachian State in interceptions for four straight seasons, the last three as I-AA champions ... Might be best known for blocking Michigan's 37-yard field-goal attempt on the final play of huge upset ... Not real fast, but smart.

6 (207) Matt Sherry, TE, Villanova
Intelligent player who had best season, by far, as senior ... Has history of injuries, particularly shoulders ... Good red-zone target who has decent speed ... Not much of a blocker.

7 (244) Angelo Craig, DE, Cincinnati
Bengals go for local guy who needs to add weight and strength to be a factor ... Comes off good season that got him into the draft, albeit this late ... Might get a look at inside LB ... Inconsistent performer.

7 (246) Mario Urrutia, WR, Louisville
Good height that helps him make catches over middle and reach high passes ... But he's thin and runs too upright ... Gets hit too easily, but can take a pounding ... Doesn't drop the ball ... Could work as possession guy for Cincinnati.

Good Move: Rivers made tremendous sense at No. 9 and could become a star.

Tell Me Why: Another troubled player or two was taken.

Could Surprise: Lynch was a standout on a three-time champion.

4 (104) Beau Bell, LB, Nevada-Las Vegas
Possibly the best inside LB in the draft, he lasted 104 picks ... Teams downgraded him for his measurables, but this guy can be a demon, especially inside ... Should help Browns on special teams, too ... Might come out on passing downs if he becomes a starter ... Can be a fierce tackler.

4 (111) Martin Rucker, TE, Missouri
Made a slew of big pays for Tigers ... One of the keys to offensive renaissance at Mizzou ... Catches pretty much everything, has good concentration as receiver ... Can be re-routed by strong LBs ... Blocking must be upgraded ... A little too easy to tackle in open field.

6 (190) Athyba Rubin, NT, Iowa State
Good player from mediocre program ... Takes up space, which is exactly what Cleveland will expect from him ... Has the technique down, now needs to upgrade his movement ... Not versatile ... Could overpower some blockers.

6 (191) Paul Hubbard, WR, Wisconsin
Good hands for a former track guy ... Was a walk-on at Wisconsin, but developed quickly ... Knee problem forced him out of five games in 2007 ... Good size ... Can get downfield.

7 (231) Alex Hall, LB, St. Augustine
An edge rusher who will convert to outside linebacker ... Can find the quarterback and make plays, but he did that on a much lower level ... Needs better technique — relies on raw athleticism too much ... Should find time on special teams.

Good Move: Even without a pick for three rounds, Browns got quality in Bell.

Tell Me Why: Why shouldn't the Browns challenge the Steelers this year?

Could Surprise: Rubin was graded much higher by some clubs.

1 (22) Felix Jones, RB, Arkansas
A bit overshadowed by Darren McFadden, but Jones can play ... Fast, tough to bring down despite upright style, has good hands and is a downfield threat ... Almost as versatile as McFadden, would make fine kick returner, too ... Not afraid to stick his head in on blocks, especially in pass protection ... Might have better hands than any running back this year.

1 (25) Mike Jenkins, CB, South Florida
One of the better prospects from a strong crop ... Comes off strong season ... Very fast and has good footwork in coverage ... Sticks with his man on most routes ... A ballhawk who sometimes gets too aggressive going for interceptions ... Not afraid to stick it in there against the run, which helped raise his stock ... Has had off-field issues ... Could start right away for Cowboys.

2 (61) Martellus Bennett, TE, Texas A&M
Won't get deep, but will find seams over the middle and catch the ball ... Difficult to tackle ... Improved throughout his career with Aggies ... Pretty good blocker, but has some technique issues ... Needs some time to develop ... Could replace traded Anthony Fasano.

4 (122) Tashard Choice, RB, Georgia Tech
Transfer from Oklahoma who made decent impact for Tech ... Goes down a bit too easily, but is good on cutbacks ... Sees the field well and doesn't give up on plays ... Has had some knee problems ... Could be a quality receiver on third down ... A project.

5 (143) Orlando Scandrick, CB, Boise State
Smart player who understands his position ... Makes the best of his skills, especially in short coverage ... Also can help on special teams ... Might struggle in his backpedal, but that can be coached ... Worth a look.

6 (167) Erik Walden, LB, Middle Tennessee State
A defensive end who will be converted to linebacker ... Should get some work in pass rushing situations and in spelling Dallas' starters ... Also can be a factor on special teams.

Good Move: Mike Jenkins might be the steady cover cornerback Dallas has lacked.

Tell Me Why: Choice was more of a luxury pick; another running back wasn't a need.

Could Surprise: Not Jerry Jones, who wanted a Razorback back and got one.

1 (12) Ryan Clady, T, Boise State
Stock soared throughout postseason until he wound up in Denver ... Can play the left side in the pros ... Needs more power on run blocks ... Won't pancake anybody ... Uses his height (6-6) well ... Good movement, but can get sloppy in

technique ... Understands positioning ... Won't back down ... Seems ready for the pros even though he had one year of eligibility remaining.

2 (42) Eddie Royal, WR, Virginia Tech
More likely to make impact on special teams in 2008 ... Does not come from pro-style offense, has much to learn about routes and how to use his under 4.4 speed ... Figures to be a slot guy, but lack of height (5-9) could hurt him ... Doesn't drop the ball.

4 (108) Kory Lichtensteiger, C, Bowling Green
Might be best of a weak crop at the position ... Could also wind up at guard ... Has non-stop motor ... Proved at Senior Bowl that he can handle top-flight opposition ... Not real big, probably must add some bulk ... Gets off the ball well in pass protection, not so much in running game.

4 (119) Jack Williams, CB, Kent State
Short, but competitive and a leader ... Can be overpowered, though ... Very fast, especially on coverage downfield ... Did not play that well as senior, but had injury issues ... Showed toughness throughout '07.

5 (139) Ryan Torain, RB, Arizona State
Injury concerns dropped him this far ... Comes off foot injury that cut short his season ... Runs hard and likes to deliver a hit ... Is not one-dimensional, although he won't turn the corner often ... Pretty good blocker, too ... Denver's success with low-round running backs is well known.

5 (148) Carlton Powell, DT, Virginia Tech
A key to Hokies' run-stopping defense, so there's a role here for Powell ... Moves well and has some power ... Also has some burst ... Has inconsistent technique ... Could see spot duty early on.

6 (183) Spencer Larsen, LB, Arizona
Not much on the outside, but makes plays against the run and in zone defenses inside ... A good series of workouts helped get him selected ... Really can hit, but needs to be a bit more disciplined.

7 (220) Josh Barrett, S, Arizona State
Did not have a great season, but did well in workouts ... Fast, moves well in short spaces, too ... Can also handle bigger receivers ... So-so hands ... Sometimes needs to be motivated.

7 (227) Peyton Hillis, FB, Arkansas
Somewhat squat back who has versatility and is dangerous near the end zone ... Could become an H-back ... Has leadership qualities ... Could be blocking back who catches a bunch of passes ... Not a prototypical pile-mover.

Good Move: Both Clady and Lichtensteiger fit the offensive line well.

Tell Me Why: Why has Mike Shanahan messed up so many drafts lately?

Could Surprise: Torain could be a top rusher, considering Broncos' history with lower running back picks.

DETROIT LIONS

C

1 (17) Gosder Cherilus, T, Boston College
Very inconsistent, but had a good postseason to raise his stock ... Can play both sides ... His long arms are his best weapon against DEs ... Moves pretty well, but can he keep getting to the second level in NFL the way he did at BC? ... Will need to learn a lot about technique in the pros and how to play hard on every down.

2 (45) Jordon Dizon, LB, Colorado
Does best work in passing game ... Can cover tight ends and even some backs ... Not real strong vs. the run, but not a liability ... Probably won't blitz a lot, if at all ... Speed and willingness to get involved are his top commodities ... Will do well on kick coverages.

3 (64) Kevin Smith, RB, Central Florida
Super productive, takes hits and keeps going ... Excellent feet, which allows him to be a threat to the outside ... Cuts well in open field ... A true workhorse, perhaps too much so in college, so he left after junior year ... Should prosper in Lions' passing attack ... After all the work he did for Knights, he made wise decision coming out as junior.

3 (87) Andre Fluellen, DT, Florida State
Might need to add strength and weight to make it in NFL ... Comes off pretty good postseason after up-and-down career at FSU ... First step is dynamic for the position, which helps him against running game ... Needs to add versatility.

3 (92) Cliff Avril, DE, Purdue
Opinions on Avril were all over the board ... Very athletic and active, can change direction and run down plays ... Has lots of experience up front, as well ... Showed only periodic skills as pass rusher ... Raw as OLB, but is promising ... Lions traded up to get him.

5 (136) Kenny Moore, WR, Wake Forest
Was there any question the Lions would take a wideout? ... Made a lot of catches for Demon Deacons, but will be mostly a possession guy in Detroit ... Has the hands and the smarts you want ... Won't get deep ... Can return kicks.

5 (146) Jerome Felton, FB, Furman
Eventually could be lead blocker for Lions, and could help on kick teams ... Not afraid to get it on with defenders at point of attack ... Very strong and pretty good movement ... Has a lot to learn about fundamentals.

7 (216) Landon Cohen, DL, Ohio
A Bobcat, not a Buckeye ... Not real big, might be better suited at end in 4-3 alignment ... Streaky, needs to get more consistent ... A developmental player.

7 (218) Caleb Campbell, LB, Army
Has the option to play pro football and not go into service ... Very physical, in excellent shape ... Knows how to run to the ball — and through the ball carrier ... Not much speed and lacks coverage ability ... Needs to improve one-on-one play.

Good Move: Trading up on Day 2 for Smith, who could be starting soon.

Tell Me Why: Matt Millen still is doing his thing in Motown.

Could Surprise: Campbell, who has lots of incentive to make the team.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

B

2 (36) Jordy Nelson, WR, Kansas State
Should be a possession guy for Packers ... Really came on as a senior, going from deep in the draft to a coveted player ... Will help on kick returns ... Not afraid to use his 6-1, 220 frame over the middle, which is where he'll make many of his catches ... Not a deep threat.

2 (56) Brian Brohm, QB, Louisville
Began last season as consensus top QB prospect, then had so-so season ... A bit injury-prone ... Has good pedigree — brother Jeff was NFL quarterback and has tutored Brian ... Accurate and gets rid of the ball quickly ... Good leadership qualities ... Will elude the rush and can throw on the run ... Won't panic.

2 (60) Patrick Lee, CB, Auburn
Not a starter until 2007, when he performed well ... Had so-so workouts, though ... Might do his best work as a kick returner ... If he gets himself in position, will make plays, but has to work extra hard to keep up with receivers ... Bit of a stretch this high for Pack.

3 (91) Jermichael Finley, TE, Texas
Very raw, had two more seasons of eligibility ... Might wind up as an H-back in Green Bay ... A workout wonder, but will he match it on the field? ... Much more of a receiver than a blocker ... Not real aggressive.

4 (102) Jeremy Thompson, DE, Wake Forest
Has a true feel for defending the run, not so much on pass plays ... Pretty strong and durable ... Doesn't always make tackles even when in position ... Brother was with Packers last season.

4 (135) Josh Sitton, G/T, Central Florida
Key blocker for highly productive Kevin Smith ... Gets to the edge in protection and in run game ... Has good burst off the snap to get into defenders ... Technique needs work, particularly on inside plays ... Might wind up at guard ... Won't stop trying.

5 (150) Breno Giacomini, T, Louisville
Very tall terror who could block kicks on special teams ... Uses his long arms well to block, but might fit best at guard, where movement is more limited ... Good motor, which makes up for lack of athletic skills ... Might need to get stronger.

7 (209) Matt Flynn, QB, Louisiana State
Considered a bit short for the position (6-1), but the guy is a winner ... Could have lost his job last season several times, yet held it and led Tigers to title ... Accurate enough passer who doesn't gamble ... Probably a practice squad guy right off.

7 (217) Brett Swain, WR, San Diego State
Has good size and made some big plays for Aztecs ... Packers got interested while scouting Swain's QB, Kevin O'Connell ... Also returns punts, which could be his main job this year if he makes team.

Good Move: Brohm would have been a top-five pick in 2007.

Tell Me Why: Finley doesn't figure as a third-rounder.

Could Surprise: Sitton was productive and a bargain where Pack got him.

HOUSTON TEXANS

C+

1 (26) Duane Brown, T, Virginia Tech
Moves well for his size (6-4, 315) and can get to LBs ... Handles outside rushers well, but sometimes isn't firm enough working inside ... Technique is mediocre ... Can be overpowered ... Brown is better in pass blocking ... Can play either side.

3 (79) Antwaun Molden, CB, Eastern Kentucky
A big cornerback to help replace the recovering Dunta Robinson ... Good against the run and the pass, but should do especially well in short coverage ... Won't get physical, but uses his athletic skills and intelligence to make him a standout ... Must get better protecting deep.

3 (89) Steve Slaton, RB, West Virginia
Slaton's stock dropped like a dead weight this year ... He has great speed to break big plays and gets through holes untouched, but is very inconsistent ... Injuries, lack of size and inability to break tackles hurt his value ... Might do well returning kicks and as a third-down back in Houston.

4 (118) Xavier Adibi, LB, Virginia Tech
Some scouts rated him a first-round talent, but worried about his size ... Can be overpowered ... Should do well in coverage against backs, but might be a liability vs. tight ends ... Gets to the ball quickly ... Shows tendency to be shy about contact with bigger blockers.

5 (151) Frank Okam, DT, Texas
At 6-5, 337, one of the biggest players in the draft ... That doesn't make him one-dimensional, though: Bryant is solid against the run and the pass ... Biggest concern is his lack of tenacity; he takes some plays off ... Technique will need work in the NFL.

6 (173) Dominique Barber, S, Minnesota
Younger brother of Dallas RB Marion Barber ... Rugged like his brother, but technique needs upgrading ... Could be a nickel back against certain offenses ... Has some pass-rushing skills ... Can be blocked one-on-one.

7 (223) Alex Brink, QB, Washington State
Very experienced and a good leader ... Takes charge, has good poise ... Not much outside the pocket, needs optimal protection ... Must upgrade his technique ... With Gary Kubiak as coach, he should learn quickly.

Good Move: Adibi was a nice value where they got him.

Tell Me Why: Slaton is injury prone and small, not a good combo.

Could Surprise: Brink can be brought along slowly, was worth a final-round slot.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

A-

2 (59) Mike Pollak, C/G, Arizona State
Stock rose in postseason, particularly at Senior Bowl, where he handled top competition ... Smart, understands his role either at center or guard ... Might need to add some weight and definitely some strength ... Needs to get more aggressive as a run blocker, but is more refined in pass protection ... Moves well.

3 (93) Philip Wheeler, LB, Georgia Tech
A nice fit for the Colts ... Wheeler is versatile and understands defenses ... Also will help on kick teams ... Should do his best work to the outside, especially closing down the run ... Has leadership qualities ... Could use some improvement on tackling fundamentals.

4 (127) Jacob Tamme, TE, Kentucky
Solid player for Wildcats and one of better TEs in the SEC ... Might be more of a blocker for Indy early on, but can fit into slot Ben Utecht abandoned ... Plays with intelligence and understands his role ... Can take a hit and keep going ... Won't get downfield, but Dallas Clark does that for Colts.

5 (161) Marcus Howard, DE, Georgia
Terrific athlete who fits Colts' style ... Can get to the QB off the edge, also has tools to help in coverage ... Should make quick impact on special teams ... Must get a bit stronger and more aware of where blockers are coming from.

6 (196) Tom Santi, TE, Virginia
A big-time blocker who could add to his 250 pounds and play some tackle ... A nice-sized target and he caught 36 passes for Cavaliers ... Might help Colts in red zone.

6 (201) Steve Justice, C, Wake Forest
A leader on an overachieving team, which the pros love ... Never stops coming ... Can handle line calls without flinching ... Needs to get over 300 pounds and add some strength ... More of a pass protector than a run blocker ... Can get sloppy as a blocker.

6 (202) Mike Hart, RB, Michigan
Another workhorse back with a history of success ... Short, but stocky and strong ... Knows how to locate running room, then slices through it ... Good open-field runner ... Should excel as receiver, too ... Has history of injuries, although he will play hurt ... Not particularly fast ... Good team guy who slipped way too far in the draft.

6 (205) Pierre Garcon, WR, Mount Union
Played for Division III powerhourse and produced ... Showed his abilities at combine, too ... Won't get deep, will contribute on shorter patterns ... Colts can afford to show patience with him as he learns.

7 (236) Jamey Richard, C/G, Buffalo
Smart kid from an improving program ... Tough and aggressive, but not a true athlete ... Won't win the one-on-one battles at center, might have a chance to make it at guard ... A project.

Good Move: Wheeler, Tamme and Santi fill immediate needs.

Tell Me Why: Why did Hart slip so far after playing hurt and being productive in college?

Could Surprise: Garcon went to the right team and someday could be a factor.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

B+

1 (8) Derrick Harvey, DE, Florida
A dynamic pass rusher who didn't have a great junior season, then left school ... Very athletic, should get some sacks as a rookie for Jaguars ... Needs to get bigger and stronger ... Has a couple of go-to moves that are impressive as a rusher, but must add some variety.

2 (52) Quentin Groves, DE, Auburn
Might have been a first-rounder in 2007 draft ... Has problems with powerful blockers and sometimes can be handled by one blocker ... Very inconsistent, but when he is on and interested, Groves can make big plays ... Also played DE in school ... Jags will find room for him, especially in passing situations and as a blitzer.

5 (155) Thomas Williams, LB, Southern Cal
Mostly a backup in college, but played every LB position ... Has good understanding of the game, and is especially effective against tight ends ... Doesn't always get to the ball-carrier quickly ... Jack Del Rio's kind of player, a guy who will go all out to make team.

5 (159) Trae Williams, CB, South Florida
Overshadowed by Mike Jenkins, Williams is solid enough, although short ... Will run through the ball-carrier to make a tackle, but sometimes gets carried away ... Had good postseason to help him get selected ... Should play a role on Jaguars' kick coverages.

7 (213) Chauncey Washington, RB, Southern Cal
Comes out of the Trojans' deep stable of running backs and was a starter for part of his career, which is impressive. But he never stood out ... Athletic runner who slices through the line and has some power ... Well-schooled ... Drove coaches to distraction with fumbling ... Had good postseason.

Photo by: Tomasso DeRosa

GLENN DORSEY

Good Move: Harvey was a high priority and Jags got aggressive.

Tell Me Why: No wideouts were chosen, even with WR additions in free agency.

Could Surprise: Washington has chance to complement Taylor and Jones-Drew.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

A

1 (5) Glenn Dorsey, DT, Louisiana State
By far the best at his position in this draft ... A demon against the run, sometimes is unblockable ... Also knows how to pursue the passer and get him on the ground ... Has size, speed and strength you want, and understands the game ... Injuries have been an issue throughout his career, but Dorsey plays hurt ... Should be a starter from Day 1 in Kansas City.

1 (15) Branden Albert, G/T, Virginia
Tall and athletic ... Said he used advice of Cavaliers coach Al Groh, former NFL coach, to decide whether to leave school after junior season ... Very good in the running game, but so-so on pass coverage ... Might need to add some strength ... Dropped 25 pounds since becoming a starter for Virginia.

2 (35) Brandon Flowers, CB, Virginia Tech
A junior who reminds some of former Hokies CB DeAngelo Hall, albeit not as fast ... Stays with receivers and makes plays ... Does not have top-end speed, but uses what he has well ... Should be comfortable with any press coverage responsibilities ... Like most Virginia Tech DBs, supports against the run very well ... Likes to hit.

3 (73) Jamaal Charles, RB, Texas
Many personnel people believe Charles should have played his senior season at Texas to upgrade his stock ... Came out early in draft loaded with outstanding RB prospects ... Decent size, but won't overpower defenders and can be tackled one-on-one ... Not real versatile ... Very coachable, but Chiefs need some patience with him and can afford it with Larry Johnson ahead of Charles.

3 (76) Brad Cottam, TE, Tennessee
Barely played as a senior (wrist) ... Uses his 6-7 height and wingspan well ... Blocking will be his calling card, but he can catch the ball and find midrange openings ... Raw, not particularly durable ... He is NOT another Jason Witten or Tony Gonzalez.

3 (82) DaJuan Morgan, S, North Carolina State
Left school after junior season ... Versatile player who could go at strong or free safety ... Should fit well in two-deep defenses, where he can use his athletic skills and intelligence ... Good tackler when he sticks to proper technique ... Could help on kick coverages.

4 (105) Will Franklin, WR, Missouri
Not used a lot by Tigers, but has good enough speed and nice size ... Drops the ball too much ... Not as mean as he needs to be, must show he will catch ball in traffic ... Doesn't get a lot of yards after catch ... Good athlete.

5 (140) Brandon Carr, CB, Grand Valley State
Outstanding player on lower level ... Might wind up at safety because he's physical ... Will have a lot to learn in KC, but works hard and has former DB Herm Edwards as head coach ... Willingly gets involved against the run.

6 (170) Barry Richardson, G/T, Clemson
Career has gone downhill since a good start ... Struggles to get in position on pass protection, and doesn't get to the second level enough ... Has some versatility and size, but doesn't use his talents consistently.

6 (182) Kevin Robinson, WR/KR, Utah State
The star of the East-West Shrine Game with long TD catch and punt return for score ... Chiefs almost certainly will use him on all kick returns in preseason ... Has big-play capabilities, but does not break many tackles ... Also will block.

7 (210) Brian Johnston, DE, Gardner-Webb
Has pretty good technique and variety of moves ... Not strong, though, and isn't the surest tackler ... Works hard and is a willing student ... Could help on kick teams in KC.

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7 (239) Mike Merritt, TE, Central Florida
Not very productive as a pass catcher, but is massive and could even wind up at tackle ... A strange selection considering the tight end situation in KC, so Merritt figures more as a lineman.

Good Move: Plenty of them, mainly the top three picks.

Tell Me Why: Jared Allen, their best player, is in Minnesota.

Could Surprise: Robinson has nice tools and versatility.

MIAMI DOLPHINS
A

1 (1) Jake Long, T, Michigan
Long was long considered the top prospect on the offensive line heading to draft and Dolphins obviously liked him best overall ... Might be best run blocker available ... Probably fits best on right side ... Can play some guard, not likely to wind up there for Miami .... Won't be outworked ... Can make line calls if needed ... Struggled against Ohio State's top defender, Vernon Gholston, but handled most everyone else ... Footwork when he moves to outside could be better.

2 (32) Phillip Merling, DE, Clemson
Not as good a prospect as Tigers' first-rounder of last year, Gaines Adams, but a talented player ... Could get off the line a little quicker in pass rush and needs to add more moves ... Can make plays all over the field against the run ... Must wrap up more consistently ... Probably would have prospered from remaining in school for senior year, but went high enough in draft anyway.

2 (57) Chad Henne, QB, Michigan
Experienced and highly productive player ... Strong, with versatile arm and willingness to test defensive backs ... Sees the field very well ... Makes some bad decisions, particularly late in games ... Had played in a ton of big games and overseen his share of big victories ... Gets sacked too easily ... Nobody is comparing him with Tom Brady, but he went well before sixth round, where Brady was chosen in 2000.

3 (66) Kendall Langford, DE, Hampton
Went from non-prospect to third-rounder based on size/power combination and productivity, albeit on lower level ... Raw, has technique problems, but is terrific in short space and can be nasty ... Can contribute situationally right away ... A Parcells kind of project.

4 (110) Shawn Murphy, G, Utah State
Father is former Atlanta Braves outfielder Dale Murphy ... Smart, aggressive and willing to learn ... Played defensive line until he was a junior, so is a bit raw ... Probably needs more work as a run blocker right now ... Worth this pick for Miami.

6 (176) Jalen Parmele, RB, Toledo
Well-built and rugged, but one-dimensional ... Great motor ... If he can add a few more pounds, could even wind up at fullback ... Can block against blitzers ... Definitely worth this spot.

6 (195) Donald Thomas, G, Connecticut
Very up-and-down performer ... Had OK season that he supplemented with good workouts to get picked by Miami ... Must show he's a self-motivator quickly ... Has quickness and some mobility, but also has a lot to learn.

6 (204) Lex Hilliard, RB, Montana
Co-MVP of 2007 Grizzlies ... Finished second in career rushing at Montana ... Has excellent size and can pound the ball ... Gets into the end zone when he is close ... Could get a look at fullback/H-back.

7 (245) Lionel Dotson, DT, Arizona
Shows natural skills and some solid technique ... Occasionally uses power moves well, too ... Has some versatility ... Can be handled one-on-one at times and also gets frustrated ... Worth a look here for Dolphins.

Good Move: Merling will fit in the new Miami defense immediately.

Tell Me Why: Why shouldn't Dolphins match 2007 win total by late September?

Could Surprise: RBs Parmele and Hilliard might find early minutes in the backfield.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS
B

2 (43) Tyrell Johnson, S, Arkansas State
Overcame poor tackling and he really stands out now ... Led his conference in tackles ... Hits hard, but didn't always make it stick until recently ... Understands where he should be and has some leadership skills.

5 (137) John David Booty, QB, Southern Cal
Followed Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart for Trojans and never came close to their production ... Has Palmer-type arm, is a better runner than either of his predecessors ... Keeps plays alive ... Has a lot to learn technique-wise ... Must improve decision-making ... Will need developmental time in Minnesota.

5 (152) Letroy Guion, DT, Florida State
Not nearly as good as college teammate Andre Fluellen ... Should have stayed in school for senior season and gotten bigger ... Gets off the line very well for a tackle and covers the field efficiently ... Doesn't always show aggressiveness.

6 (187) John Sullivan, C, Notre Dame
Understands pro-style offense, even though his college team was awful at it last year ... Projects as a backup for Vikings as he learns his craft behind Matt Birk ... Irish offensive line was so bad last year that evaluating Sullivan had to wait until postseason workouts ... Will come after you and not let teammates slack off.

6 (193) Jaymar Johnson, WR, Jackson State
Vikings' quarterback comes from SWAC, so why not look there for a wideout? ... Kind of small, but plays bigger ... Should get a chance to return kicks, especially punts ... Might be fastest wideout on Vikings.

Good Move: Jared Allen trade, then getting Tyrell Johnson in second round.

Tell Me Why: Why shouldn't Vikings be among NFC's most improved teams?

Could Surprise: Given time, Booty has the talents to develop into a challenger to Tarvaris Jackson.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
B-

1 (10) Jerod Mayo, LB, Tennessee
Patriots rarely take a linebacker so high, and Mayo was not rated a top-10 guy. But Belichick knows LBs, for sure, and New England is aging there ... Should fit nicely at inside LB in the 3-4, perhaps eventually replacing Tedy Bruschi ... Mayo left school after junior year, which was OK for him because he was ready ... Aggressive against the run and can cover to the sidelines ... Won't be big-time blitzer right away.

2 (62) Terrence Wheatley, CB, Colorado
A bit undersized, but athletic and competitive when going for the ball ... Can get lazy, though — Patriots will cure him of that real fast ... Is better in man coverage, not much against the run ... Has had some injury issues ... Pats obviously saw a lot of things to like.

3 (78) Shawn Crable, LB, Michigan
Courageous young man who has overcome some serious personal issues to be solid college player ... Can get to the passer, and has some versatility ... Played end, but only will fit there in pass-rushing situations in NFL ... Should do OK on special teams and he won't stop working.

3 (94) Kevin O'Connell, QB, San Diego State
Could be developmental guy early on as third-stringer behind Tom Brady and Matt Cassel ... Solid build and size, but kind of raw ... Intelligent QB who can learn from one of the best, of course ... Can throw on the run well ... Doesn't always trust his arm.

4 (129) Jonathan Wilhite, CB, Auburn
Posted excellent 40 times after not looking that quick during season ... A bit raw, but has big upside because of his agility and smarts ... Must improve his tackling ... Should help immediately on special teams in New England.

5 (153) Matt Slater, WR, UCLA
Son of former Hall of Fame tackle Jackie Slater ... Also played some defense early in his career ... All-conference kick returner who had three TD returns in 2007 ... Could contribute on all special teams.

6 (197) Bo Ruud, LB, Nebraska
Brother of Tampa Bay's Barrett, who came into his own last year ... Has leadership skills to go with a passion for the game ... Must learn not to get blocked by one man, especially in open field ... Can play both outside spots.

Good Move: Defense is getting old in spots and Patriots addressed it well.

Tell Me Why: Was Mayo really the 10th-best player available?

Could Surprise: O'Connell, with proper tutelage in next couple of years, could become Brady's caddie.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
B-

1 (7) Sedrick Ellis, DT, Southern Cal
Doesn't have the great size of some other tackles, but it never has hindered him ... Can also slide outside in certain formations ... Makes the plays inside and outside against the run ... Won't be a sack threat, but can tie up blockers for teammates to get free ... Fundamentals are not great, but they improved last season.

2 (40) Tracy Porter, CB, Indiana
Works hard, understands the game and has good base ... Strong postseason raised his value ... Will return kicks ... Can have difficulty covering deep ... Needs to be more aggressive against the run.

5 (144) DeMario Pressley, DT, North Carolina St.
Has lots of natural talent, but where were they last season? ... Doesn't work as hard as he needs to, which showed at Senior Bowl and afterward ... When he's on, he can get into the backfield almost untouched. When he's off, he just takes up space ... A real project for Saints.

5 (164) Carl Nicks, G/T, Nebraska
Comes out of a mess of a program with great strength (not unusual for Cornuskers), but relies on it too much ... Can be handled one-on-one by versatile DEs and MLBs ... Not technically strong, but the former DT is coachable ... A project.

6 (178) Taylor Mehlhaff, PK, Wisconsin
Fills a huge need in New Orleans ... Strong leg, has kicked in bad weather and succeeded ... Should handle kickoffs, too ... Has more upside than Martin Gramatica, even without his experience.

7 (237) Adrian Arrington, WR, Michigan
Went about where he belonged ... Decent college wideout with nice size and willingness to go up for high passes ... Aggressive ... Limitations include lack of speed and inconsistent patterns ... Was suspended last year, which adds further concerns ... Do Saints expect another Marques Colston here?

Good Move: The top three picks all can fill holes right away.

Tell Me Why: A few head cases in this group.

Could Surprise: Mehlhaff will be given the opportunity to kick fulltime.

NEW YORK GIANTS
B+

1 (31) Kenny Phillips, S, Miami
Good size and speed, plays with an attitude ... Excels as a cover guy, but fits best as a strong safety because of

his strength and 6-2, 215 physique ... Finds the ball and can catch it, but also can be fooled ... Could make some spectacular plays against run and pass for Giants ... Left school as a junior.

2 (63) Terrell Thomas, CB, Southern Cal
At nearly 6-1, 200, could wind up at safety ... A bit raw, but hits hard and likes contact on passing and run plays ... Giants must work on his fundamentals ... Showed more flashes than consistency at Southern Cal ... Has strong knowledge of cornerback position and doesn't get misdirected much.

3 (95) Mario Manningham, WR, Michigan
Wolverines' big-play wideout who had poor postseason workouts ... Streaky, and when he was on at Michigan, Manningham was unstoppable ... Skipped senior season ... Can make the tough catches and gets deep ... Not particularly strong — can he be bullied by aggressive corners? ... Giants might groom him to eventually replace Amani Toomer.

4 (123) Bryan Kehl, LB, Brigham Young
Hard worker who has leadership ability, too ... Giants moved up to get him, envision an active player on special teams and a potential help at linebacker ... Quick to the ball, but can be blocked by one man ... Can get frustrated.

5 (165) Jonathan Goff, LB, Vanderbilt
Giants could use some fresh blood at the position, but don't look for Goff to do much in pass defenses ... Goes full out on every play and has leadership ability ... Pretty strong ... Won't do a lot to the outside regardless of the alignment.

6 (198) Andre' Woodson, QB, Kentucky
Great athlete with excellent size (6-4, 230) and a variety of throws ... Very mature ... Carried Wildcats to higher level than they'd seen in years ... Succeeded on athletic skills more than technical mastery ... Makes plays ... Can he throw deep with any consistency? ... A poor Senior Bowl hurt his stock.

6 (199) Robert Henderson, DE, Southern Mississippi
Could have tough time making the roster because Giants are deep at end ... But their pass rush won them a Super Bowl, so another playmaker can find his way onto roster ... Strong guy who is raw and needs more versatility ... Knows what to do near a quarterback.

Good Move: Giants had to address a spotty secondary, and Phillips was top safety available.

Tell Me Why: Why ever doubt GM Jerry Reese after his near-perfect 2007 draft?

Could Surprise: Manningham, if he has his head on straight, is a first-round talent.

NEW YORK JETS
B

1 (6) Vernon Gholston, LB, Ohio State
Michigan OT Jake Long said Gholston was most difficult defender he faced in college ... Flashes off the line and can get into the backfield before he's touched ... A typical rush end who is OK against the run, but it's not his forte ... Can get lost on running plays, in fact ... Tremendous upside, and is projected to be a linebacker for the Jets.

1 (30) Dustin Keller, TE, Purdue
Might wind up as H-back and even a wideout at times because of lack of blocking abilities ... Drops the ball at times, even when wide open ... Has some nice moves and excellent speed for the position ... Will get open deep like a Kellen Winslow ... Had some good workouts to help his stock and Jets traded back into round to get him.

4 (113) Dwight Lowery, CB, San Jose State
Not aggressive enough and doesn't always put his all into it ... Has the skills, but his laziness and inconsistency will drive coaches to distraction ... Good size, long reach, can break up all kinds of passes ... Has a lot to learn.

5 (162) Erik Ainge, QB, Tennessee
Nephew of former two-sport star (NBA and MLB) Danny Ainge ... Great size (6-5, 226) and strength ... Very inconsistent ... Can find secondary receivers and will stand in pocket to extend a play ... Not much outside the pocket, though ... Has had injury woes.

6 (171) Marcus Henry, WR, Kansas
Could turn into tall receiver Jets need ... At 6-4, Henry can catch those high passes the Jets like to include in their offense ... Was productive but inconsistent for Jayhawks ... Nickname is "Mute" because he doesn't talk much — how many wideouts are like that?

7 (211) Nate Garner, T, Arkansas
Goes 6-6, 325, doesn't always use that size well ... Didn't start until his senior season, but had good final year blocking for Darren McFadden and Felix Jones ... Will need to improve his technique and show he is in shape.

Good Move: Not trading up for Matt Ryan or down and missing Gholston.

Tell Me Why: A trade back into the first round to take a TE, not WR?

Could Surprise: Henry has a lot of tools the Jets lack.

OAKLAND RAIDERS
C

1 (4) Darren McFadden, RB, Arkansas
Has been compared to 2007 NFL Offensive Rookie of Year Adrian Peterson ... Versatile, also can return kicks and throw ... Never has been asked to pass protect, though ... Give him an inch and he will break long plays, which he did in some big games for Razorbacks ... As dangerous outside as inside and seems to have no preference where he runs ... Was not overworked at Arkansas.

4 (100) Tyvon Branch, CB, Connecticut
Very athletic, look for him to have immediate role as kick returner for Oakland ... Moves very well, but is not strong and is raw in coverage ... Won't do much in run support ... A worthwhile project who might wind up as nickel back at some point this year.

4 (125) Arman Shields, WR, Richmond
Comes off significant knee injury ... Catches nearly everything ... Uses his size well and finds the ball ... Needs some time to show he is fully healthy and can make this big jump up in competition.

6 (169) Trevor Scott, DE, Buffalo
One of two players from this formerly weak program to be drafted, Scott has quickness and is relentless ... He is not much against the run, though, and must gain some weight to hold up ... Former tight end whose solid workouts got him chosen by Raiders.

7 (226) Chaz Schilens, WR, San Diego State
Excellent workouts lifted his stock after he did little until late in season ... Made 22 receptions in final three games ... Fast, gets separation, but not real consistent ... A special teamer.

Good Move: McFadden could be a superstar right away.

Tell Me Why: McFadden also fills no prime need, and there are so many holes here.

Could Surprise: Branch needs some seasoning, but could be a starter down the road.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
A-

2 (47) Trevor Laws, DT, Notre Dame
After so-so season on bad team, Laws showed his skills at Senior Bowl and in workouts ... Stock rose throughout postseason because he is so quick and versatile ... Poor technique never was fixed at Notre Dame ... Must get stronger, which he began to do during offseason.

2 (49) DeSean Jackson, WR, California
One of the draft's top athletes, versatile, very fast, confident ... Will be a strength on kick returns right away for Philly ... At 5-9, 170, might not be a No. 1 receiver, but could be an impact wideout if he learns to get away from chucks at the line ... Has breakaway speed and shiftiness that make him ultradangerous in open field ... Some scouts question his dedication ... Jerry Rice helped him prepare for draft.

3 (80) Bryan Smith, DE/-LB, McNeese State
Eagles see him as combination DE/LB ... Probably will add weight and become pass-rush specialist at end, though ... Making big move from lower football level, so patience is needed ... Moves very well in small spaces, and can get around the edge, but also can be overpowered.

4 (109) Mike McGlynn, G/T, Pittsburgh
Versatile player who could wind up as a tackle, which he played in college ... Plays with intelligence and good movement ... Won't back down ... Gets beyond the line to linebackers, which helped his stock a lot ... Needs some upgrades in his technique on passing plays.

4 (117) Quintin Demps, S, Texas-El Paso
A bit slow to react at times ... Not nearly as assertive as he needs to be, particularly against the run ... Handles plays in front of him well enough, has trouble on deeper plays ... Might do best work on special teams.

4 (131) Jack Ikegwuonu, CB, Wisconsin
Serious knee injury and off-field issues contributed to his falling this far ... Will run through ball-carriers and knows how to finish off a tackle ... Will probably be better against run and on kick teams for now ... Coaches need to be patient with him, probably into 2009.

6 (184) Mike Gibson, G, California
Played tackle in school, projects as guard in Philly ... Had some trouble handling speedy ends on pass rush, doesn't always get off the ball fast enough. Strangely, he can pull on running plays, though ... Needs technique work.

6 (200) Joe Mays, LB, North Dakota State
Hits hard, then harder ... Never backs down ... Pretty versatile, but not a great athlete ... Enjoys the game and is a good fit for Eagles' special teams.

6 (203) Andy Studebaker, DE, Wheaton
From Division III to the NFL is one massive leap ... Non-stop pursuit and leadership skills attracted Eagles to him ... Must add some strength and learn the game at a higher level ... Developmental guy, could wind up on practice squad.

7 (230) King Dunlap, T, Auburn
Tall, must figure out how to handle his height better in the pros ... Very inconsistent, even was benched last year when he got sloppy ... Is a better pass blocker, but has much to learn ... Can be outsmarted by defensive linemen ... Sometimes can overpower opponents, but not regularly.

Good Move: Jackson can fill several needs, especially kick returner.

Tell Me Why: Not much attention paid to offensive skill positions.

Could Surprise: Give Ikegwuonu another year to get healthy and he could have an impact.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS
B+

1 (23) Rashard Mendenhall, RB, Illinois
Solidly built runner who improved throughout junior year ... Had good postseason to move ahead of several more heralded backs ... Can run over people, but also has good moves and speed to get outside ... Hard worker ... Must learn to block and run routes, but has pretty decent hands ... A bit inexperienced, will aid Willie Parker.

2 (53) Limas Sweed, WR, Texas
Stock soared in postseason workouts after so-so year for Longhorns ... Has excellent size (6-4, 217) and is hard for DBs to re-route once he gets into pattern ... Doesn't drop the ball if he can reach it ... Isn't always where QBs expect him to be on his routes ... Has some injury history ... Will he show

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up in games the way he does in workouts?

3 (88) Bruce Davis, LB, UCLA
Played DE in college, so might be moved around by Steelers ... Did not have a strong postseason, but was trying to switch to LB ... Can get to the quarterback and has some decent moves in pass rush ... Will get off the line well ... Must grow into his new position, so patience is required.

4 (130) Tony Hills, T, Texas
Longhorns linemen are often a mixed bag ... Hills is athletic — played tight end in high school — and energetic ... A bit raw and can get lazy, but the size and skills are impressive ... Comes off shortened season due to broken leg ... With coaching, should become a starter in a couple of seasons.

5 (156) Dennis Dixon, QB, Oregon
Had torn ACL last season while on pace toward Heisman Trophy ... Sat out rest of season after surgery, was making strong progress when he was chosen by Steelers ... Very athletic, albeit a bit thin ... Good arm, moves well outside the pocket and senses when the rush is coming ... A developmental project with lots of potential if healthy.

6 (188) Mike Humpal, LB, Iowa
Good size and a real competitor ... Makes plays, usually with power ... Won't do much on the outside ... Coverage skills are rudimentary ... Special teams are calling for him.

6 (194) Ryan Mundy, S, West Virginia
Good size and pretty aggressive ... Plays with intelligence and leads ... Can help on kick teams ... A Pittsburgh native.

Good Move: Mendenhall and Parker could be a dynamic combo.

Tell Me Why: Steelers keep thinking they can find slash-types (Dixon).

Could Surprise: Hills might slide right into a starting spot.

ST. LOUIS RAMS

B

1 (2) Chris Long, DE, Virginia
Son of Hall of Famer Howie Long ... Could fit most defenses because of his versatility ... Does best work against the run, also knows how to get to the passer ... Solid techniques, has learned well from Al Groh's staff — and from his dad ... Comes to play every down and made some big contributions in most important games for Cavaliers ... Has leadership skills, just like Howie.

2 (33) Donnie Avery, WR, Houston
Among the fastest wideouts this year ... Can get off the line well, and if he is not rerouted, will get deep ... Steady hands, won't drop many passes ... Not particularly strong ... Learning curve could be steep, but the skills are there ... Was first wideout chosen.

3 (65) John Greco, T/G, Toledo
One of the better prospects in a weak crop of guards will start out at tackle ... Better in pass protection, but can get into defensive linemen and hold his block on running plays ... Has some leadership skills and understands his position ... Motor never stops.

4 (101) Justin King, CB, Penn State
Stock rose closer to the draft, but still needed another year with Nittany Lions ... Needs work on basics and to show more adaptability ... Has some unusual footwork ... Will catch the ball when he gets into proper position ... Doesn't hit particularly well.

4 (128) Keenan Burton, WR, Kentucky
Rugged enough receiver who runs good routes ... Won't get deep often, but Rams drafted Avery for that ... Doesn't drop the ball ... Has some technique issues ... Watch for him on kick returns.

5 (157) Roy Schuening, G, Oregon State
Good size and strength ... Know his assignments, but doesn't move very well ... Strictly an inside player ... Could wind up on practice squad in St. Louis, but there's a need for linemen.

7 (228) Chris Chamberlain, LB, Tulsa
Decent size, moves pretty well inside ... Fits best at weakside LB for Rams ... Best shot to make team is on kick coverages ... Made a lot of plays in college.

7 (252) David Vobora, LB, Idaho
Mr. Irrelevant, the last player chosen ... Lots of leadership qualities and a guy who someday might be a coach ... Hits hard and fundamentally is sound ... Played on lower level and was not a big playmaker ... Special teams and some linebacker work on passing down could be in his future.

Good Move: Didn't trade out of No. 2 spot and got a 10-year starter if Long stays healthy.

Tell Me Why: Was Avery the best WR in this draft? Rams think so.

Could Surprise: Chamberlain joins a team whose needs he could fill on part-time basis.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

B-

1 (27) Antoine Cason, CB, Arizona
A playmaker coming off strong season ... Finds the ball, gets to it, can catch it and can make tackles in open field, although he's not a huge hitter ... Mature player ... Not tremendously fast, but it has not hurt him because of his intelligence ... Some teams saw him as potential safety.

3 (69) Jacob Hester, RB, Louisiana State
Inspirational leader of Tigers whose motor never stops ... Not strong technically, but accomplishes a lot as a blocker and will back up Tomlinson in some situations ... Chargers should use him in short-yardage situations ... Lacks versatility, but will work hard at all assignments.

Photo by: Tomasso DeRosa

CHRIS LONG

5 (166) Marcus Thomas, RB, Texas-El Paso
Could be a nice backup for San Diego ... Knows the game and what's expected of him, won't try to overdo it ... Bad hands, won't be a receiving threat ... Can do things up the middle and bounce off tacklers ... Speed is nothing special.

6 (192) DeJuan Tribble, CB, Boston College
Short and stocky, very inconsistent ... Best attributes are his recognition and ability to get to the ball ... But Tribble doesn't always play to his strengths ... Could be serious detriment against the run ... Had poor postseason.

7 (234) Corey Clark, T, Texas A&M
Strictly a right tackle ... Not as strong as he needs to be, but has potential to gain strength ... Is at his best when on the move, but also can be knocked down by bull-rushers ...Technique is a problem.

Good Move: Hester has versatility and a killer work ethic, plus he's a leader.

Tell Me Why: Why can't Chargers make another serious run toward Super Bowl?

Could Surprise: Again, Hester, a real value for this roster.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

C

1 (29) Kentwan Balmer, DT, North Carolina
Stock rose throughout the postseason until some had him in top three at the position ... Matured as a player in senior season, but remains inconsistent ... Sometimes needs a push to get going; not a real self-motivator ... The talent is there. Can Niners get it out of him consistently?

2 (39) Chilo Rachal, G, Southern Cal
A bit of a project, but played in some big college games ... Would have been better served by remaining at Southern Cal ... Gets off the line pretty well and won't be overpowered much ... Needs to work on fundamentals, especially in pass protection.

3 (75) Reggie Smith, CB, Oklahoma
Also could wind up at free safety, but might need more pounds on almost 6-1 frame ... Came out after junior year, should not be a problem for Smith ... Will hit ... Not a great cover man yet, a bit slow, but will be better in coverage than most safeties if he makes switch ... Finds the ball.

4 (107) Cody Wallace, C, Texas A&M
Looks great in uniform, doesn't always perform up to it, though ... Did not have good postseason ... Aggressive, likes to go after DLs and LBs in run game ... Can get to the second level and be effective ... Has a lot to learn, but worth this pick for Niners.

6 (174) Josh Morgan, WR, Virginia Tech
Decent size, makes most of his catches naturally and is tough ... Also will block willingly ... Gets yards after the catch ... Can play all special teams ... Must learn to get off the line better ... Had some off-field issues in school.

7 (214) Larry Grant, LB, Ohio State
Hard-driving player with good instincts ... Figures to wind up on weak side ... Can get to the sideline to make plays ... Can be blocked by one man ... Must bulk up.

Good Move: Smith can be a playmaker; stock slipped in postseason but he can play.

Tell Me Why: Rachal might have lasted into the fourth round.

Could Surprise: Morgan needs to behave, but he is skilled.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

B-

1 (28) Lawrence Jackson, DE, Southern Cal
Versatile player from top program who was coached well and progresses throughout career ... Diagnoses plays accurately ... Not a big threat to make sacks, but has some

spurt ... Could be forceful against the run for Seattle ... Gets his hands up to disrupt passing lanes.

2 (38) John Carlson, TE, Notre Dame
Some might call him an overachiever, but Irish didn't achieve much last two seasons ... More likely to be used on passing downs and as H-back by Seahawks ... Had technique problems as blocker ... Good hands ... Goes down too easily when hit.

4 (121) Red Bryant, DT, Texas A&M
Big but quick, and probably can get even bigger than his 315 weight ... Tough to move on running plays and will make tackles along with taking up significant space ... Won't be expected to do much in pursuit ... Much more of a two-gap player.

5 (163) Owen Schmitt, FB, West Virginia
Stock plummeted after weak Senior Bowl performance ... Strictly a blocker for the pros, even though he showed some ball-carrying ability for Mountaineers ... Can catch the ball some, but unlikely to for Seattle ... Transferred from smaller school where he was too good for that level.

6 (189) Tyler Schmitt, LS, San Diego State
Strictly a long snapper and special teamer for Seahawks ... At 6-2, 232, needs to add some weight so he doesn't get overpowered.

7 (233) Justin Forsett, RB, California
Did better as a backup to Marshawn Lynch than as a starter when Lynch left for NFL ... Comes off decent year, but his weaknesses will make him a part-timer ... Not explosive to the hole, and can be tackled first time he's hit ... Has instincts that should help on kick returns.

7 (235) Brandon Coutu, PK, Georgia
Has made some game-winning kicks in a tough conference ... Has rare accuracy for a college kicker ... Comes off strong season ... Might not handle kickoffs, though for Seattle, which lost Josh Brown.

Good Move: Some scouts had Jackson as a top 20 player.

Tell Me Why: Seahawks couldn't find another Schmitt to draft?

Could Surprise: Coutu might make them forget Josh Brown.

1 (20) Aqib Talib, CB, Kansas
Reports Talib failed postseason drug test plagued him, but not too much ... One of the keys to KU's turnaround on the Jayhawks' 12th-ranked defense ... Has leadership ability, needs to be more aggressive against the run ... Uses his long arms and size well and understands positioning ... Could be big help returning kicks for Bucs.

2 (58) Dexter Jackson, WR, Appalachian State
One of the stars on the best Division I-AA team of the past three years ... Makes key plays and can get deep ... Very dangerous in open field ... A brave wideout willing to go down the middle ... A bit up and down, but really does the job in toughest situations ... Worth this spot because Bucs need playmakers at wideout.

3 (83) Jeremy Zuttah, G/T, Rutgers
One of the key players in the Scarlet Knights' turnaround to Big East contender ... Very strong, won't be overpowered ... Shouldn't be asked to pull to outside, and has some technique problems in pass protection, but Bucs envision him as tackle ... Not real athletic.

4 (115) Dre Moore, DT, Maryland
Tall and strong, has a good bull rush and doesn't back down ... Very inconsistent ... Did not make a lot of big plays for Terrapins, even though the talent and athleticism seems to be there ... A two-gap guy ... Not always aware of what's going on around him on the line.

5 (160) Josh Johnson, QB, San Diego
A developmental player with nice but raw skills ... Moves well, can run downfield and is very creative ... Has a lot to learn about the position and could wind up on Bucs' practice squad learning from Garcia and Griese.

6 (175) Geno Hayes, LB, Florida State
Hayes would have been better served spending his senior season with FSU ... Can play inside or outside, which is a nice fit for Tampa Bay ... Hard hitter despite not being real big, and he enjoys the rougher side of the game ... Intelligent player, but a bit undisciplined and needs work on the basics ... Could be special teams standout.

7 (238) Cory Boyd, RB, South Carolina
Might be nice fit on third downs for Bucs ... More of a wear-you-down runner than a breakaway threat ... Has good enough hands to catch the ball and runs good routes ... Has had some fumbling issues.

Good Move: Jackson is a terrific athlete who can fit nicely opposite Joey Galloway.

Tell Me Why: Character issues didn't concern Bucs in first round.

Could Surprise: Boyd has a lot of talent, but must harness it better.

1 (24) Chris Johnson, RB, East Carolina
An enigmatic prospect because he has nice measurables, great speed and can break it on any play, yet wasn't regarded too highly during the season ... Perhaps neck injury at ECU worried some scouts, but obviously not the Titans ... A game-breaking talent in the open field, Tennessee would be wise to use him on pass plays ... Should not be asked to block much ... Might be helpful as kick returner.

2 (54) Jason Jones, DE, Eastern Michigan
Moved up throughout offseason from lower-round pick to here ... Former basketball player and tight end ... Must prove he can play at top level and that he's coachable at new position after playing DT ... Consistently gives top effort ... Struggled in Senior Bowl, then improved in workouts.

3 (85) Craig Stevens, TE, California
Might have been a bit early look here for Titans ... More of a role player who understands his position and how to get open ... Won't get lost on his routes, but won't get deep, either ... Blocking leaves something to be desired ... Has a terrific motor and wants to improve.

4 (103) William Hayes, DE, Winston-Salem
Kind of high for such a raw talent, but Titans have needs at the position ... Can't rush him into the lineup as he learns the game and the position ... Can be dynamic getting into the backfield ... Good athlete who wants to learn.

4 (126) Lavelle Hawkins, WR, California
Overshadowed by DeSean Jackson, but Hawkins is no slouch ... Impressed during Senior Bowl and beyond ... Has inconsistent hands, and without great speed, that could be a career-killer ... Gets into his routes well and can make tacklers miss ... Not particularly strong.

4 (134) Stanford Keglar, LB, Purdue
Sounds like a bowler, but he's a player ... Rugged, doesn't back down in any situations ... Natural instincts help him find the ball and make plays ... Sometimes is ragged when he gets there, so tackling basics need work ... Should get work on special teams.

7 (229) Cary Williams, CB, Washburn
Speedy, improved in senior season and then in workouts ... Has to upgrade his fundamentals ... Proved himself on Division II level, but this is a big-time challenge ... Will catch the ball when he gets a chance, and is aggressive ... Should make Titans off his special teams work.

Good Move: With the defections at DE, Jones could provide immediate help.

Tell Me Why: Was it his speed alone that attracted Johnson to Titans?

Could Surprise: Keglar has a chance to be a factor because he won't get outworked.

2 (34) Devin Thomas, WR, Michigan State
A one-year starter for Spartans after moving up from Juco ... Stock rose late in process even though he is raw ... At 6-2, 212, has excellent size and moves, can break short passes into long gains ... Can return kicks ... Has one of best sets of hands in this draft ... Must be taught more precise routes ... Can get lazy.

2 (48) Fred Davis, TE, Southern Cal
Fit in well with high-powered Southern Cal offense ... Should move smoothly into pros as receiving threat, has much to learn as blocker ... Catches everything ... Must be taught to get off line easier, especially against big opponents ... Sometimes needs a kick-start from coaches.

2 (51) Malcolm Kelly, WR, Oklahoma
Enticing size (6-3, 225) and very good hands make him extra attractive, but lacks technique ... Pretty solid over the middle ... Was slowed in postseason by leg problems, and his agent sent letter to NFL teams declaring Kelly healthy. Then he turned in poor 40 time and mouthed off ... Can turn short passes into big plays with moves ... Has some strength, too.

3 (96) Chad Rinehart, T, Northern Iowa
Has much to master in pros, but is coachable ... Got better throughout Senior Bowl week, then had some good workouts ... Can handle outside threats with his mobility, but also can be fooled and overpowered ... There is potential, but Skins need patience.

4 (124) Justin Tryon, CB, Arizona State
Short, but jumps well, moves well and is not afraid to hit ... Needs some work on fundamentals in coverage ... Tackling is suspect, despite his toughness ... Probably fits best as nickel or dime back and on special teams this year.

6 (168) Durant Brooks, P, Georgia Tech
Watch his hang time, which is very impressive ... Might get a look on kickoffs, too ... Sometimes tries to kick ball too far downfield rather than angling it out of bounds ... Opportunity is there in DC.

6 (180) Kareem Moore, S, Nicholls State
Also played Juco, for Ole Miss and McNeese ... Solid player who was Southland's top defensive performer in '07 ... Dangerous on special teams ... Can play either safety spot.

6 (186) Colt Brennan, QB, Hawaii
The most intriguing quarterback prospect considering his stellar numbers in college ... Is he a product of June Jones' system or a genuine superstar talent? ... Understands the game and how to get the best out of players around him ... Good leadership skills ... Has funky throwing motion that needs some fixing ... Must bulk up a bit ... Struggled at Senior Bowl.

7 (242) Rob Jackson, DE, Kansas State
Former Juco player who improved steadily at K-State ... Has leadership skills ... Never slows down ... Needs some work against the run, which will turn him into situational guy for Redskins ... Must add some bulk to a frame that can handle it.

7 (249) Chris Horton, S, UCLA
Experienced and gets involved ... Made 90 tackles for Bruins, and many of them were hurtful to opponents ... Can get carried away with aggressiveness ... Probably will help on kick coverage.

Good Move: Dan Snyder not trading away the future this time.

Tell Me Why: So many wideouts so high when it wasn't the most needy position.

Could Surprise: Both seventh-rounders have traits that could get them on the squad.

THE NFL'S BEST: Players and Units

Nothing starts an argument more than trying to pick who is best at anything. That is particularly true in the NFL, where the talent is so strong that making lists is difficult.

But, someone has to do it, and we do that again, presenting *Lindy's* best of the NFL.

QUARTERBACKS

STARTERS

1A.	Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	6-5	230
1B.	Tom Brady	New England	6-4	225
3.	Carson Palmer	Cincinnati	6-5	230
4.	Drew Brees	New Orleans	6-0	229
5.	Tony Romo	Dallas	6-2	225
6.	Eli Manning	N.Y. Giants	6-4	225
7.	Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh	6-5	241
8.	Philip Rivers	San Diego	6-5	228
9.	Matt Hasselbeck	Seattle	6-4	223
10.	Derek Anderson	Cleveland	6-6	230
	Jeff Garcia	Tampa Bay	6-1	205

BACKUPS

1.	Todd Collins	Washington	6-4	225
2.	Billy Volek	San Diego	6-2	214
3.	Kurt Warner	Arizona	6-2	222
4.	Sage Rosenfels	Houston	6-2	224
5.	J.P. Losman	Buffalo	6-2	212

■ **Next In Line:** David Garrard, Jacksonville (AFC); Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** John Beck, Miami (AFC); Jason Campbell, Washington (NFC). ■ **On The Hot Seat:** JaMarcus Russell, Oakland (AFC); Jake Delhomme, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Philip Rivers and Billy Volek, San Diego (AFC); Jason Campbell and Todd Collins, Washington (NFC). ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Matt Schaub and Sage Rosenfels, Houston (AFC); Alex Smith and Shaun Hill, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Joe Flacco, Baltimore (AFC); Matt Ryan, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Riskiest Addition:** Joe Flacco, Baltimore (AFC); Trent Green, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Jay Cutler, Denver (AFC); Tarvaris Jackson, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Moving Upward:** Brodie Croyle, Kansas City (AFC); Matt Leinart, Arizona (NFC). **Best Be Ready:** Brady Quinn, Cleveland (AFC); Drew Stanton and Dan Orlovsky, Detroit (NFC). ■ **What's Next?:** Daunte Culpepper and Chris Simms.

WIDE RECEIVERS

BEST NO. 1

1.	Randy Moss	New England	6-4	210
2.	Terrell Owens	Dallas	6-3	224
3.	Andre Johnson	Houston	6-3	222
4.	Marques Colston	New Orleans	6-4	231
5.	Chad Johnson	Cincinnati	6-1	192
6.	Torry Holt	St. Louis	6-0	190
7.	Marvin Harrison	Indianapolis	6-0	185
8.	Plaxico Burress	N.Y. Giants	6-5	232
9.	Steve Smith	Carolina	5-9	185
10.	Braylon Edwards	Cleveland	6-3	215

BEST NO. 2

1.	Reggie Wayne	Indianapolis	6-0	198
2.	Wes Welker	New England	5-9	185
3.	T.J. Houshmandzadeh	Cincinnati	6-1	199
4.	Anquan Boldin	Arizona	6-1	217
5.	Donte' Stallworth	Cleveland	6-0	196
6.	Vincent Jackson	San Diego	6-5	241
7.	Calvin Johnson	Detroit	6-5	239
8.	Derrick Mason	Baltimore	5-10	192
9.	Santonio Holmes	Pittsburgh	5-11	189
10.	Isaac Bruce	San Francisco	6-0	188

BEST NO. 3

1.	Jabar Gaffney	New England	6-1	200
2.	Joe Jurevicius	Cleveland	6-5	232
3.	Anthony Gonzalez	Indianapolis	6-0	193
4.	Nate Washington	Pittsburgh	6-1	185
5.	Steve Smith	N.Y. Giants	5-11	195

■ **Next in Line:** Javon Walker, Oakland (AFC); Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Time Is Now:** Jerry Porter, Jacksonville (AFC); Bryant Johnson, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Roydell Williams, Tennessee (AFC); Robert Meachem, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Randy Moss and Wes Welker, New England (AFC); Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin, Arizona. ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Andre Johnson and Kevin Walter, Houston (NFC); Reggie Brown and Kevin Curtis, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Time is Now Tandem:** Javon Walker and Ronald Curry, Oakland (AFC); Torry Holt and Drew Bennett, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Best Trio:** Randy Moss, Wes Welker, and Jabar Gaffney, New England (AFC); Plaxico Burress, Amani Toomer and Steve Smith, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Eddie Royal, Denver (AFC); Donnie Avery, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Donte' Stallworth, Cleveland (AFC); Isaac Bruce, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Underrated Addition:** Jerome Simpson, Cincinnati (AFC); D.J. Hackett, Carolina (NFC).

TIGHT ENDS/H-BACKS

1.	Dallas Clark	Indianapolis	6-3	252
2.	Antonio Gates	San Diego	6-4	260
3.	Tony Gonzalez	Kansas City	6-5	251
4.	Kellen Winslow	Cleveland	6-4	248
5.	Jason Witten	Dallas	6-5	265
6.	Todd Heap	Baltimore	6-5	252
7.	Chris Cooley	Washington	6-3	249
8.	Ben Watson	New England	6-3	255
9.	Owen Daniels	Houston	6-3	243
10.	Jeremy Shockey	N.Y. Giants	6-5	251

■ **Next In Line:** Heath Miller, Pittsburgh (AFC); Vernon Davis, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** Reggie Kelly, Cincinnati (AFC); Dan Campbell, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Zach Miller, Oakland (AFC); Leonard Pope, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Kellen Winslow and Martin Rucker, Cleveland (AFC); Jeremy Shockey and Kevin Boss, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Desmond Clark and Greg Olsen, Chicago (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Alge Crumpler, Tennessee (AFC); Ben Troupe and John Gilmore, Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Dustin Keller, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Jermichael Finley, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Bounce Back Season:** Alge Crumpler, Tennessee (AFC); L.J. Smith, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Last Chance**: Chris Baker, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Eric Johnson, New Orleans (NFC).

Ranking by Team: PASSING GAME

1. NEW ENGLAND

Tom Brady will once again have the chance to dissect offenses with a plethora of options. If Randy Moss is covered deep, and Wes Welker is blanketed underneath ... Kevin Faulk, Ben Watson, and Jabar Gaffney will move the chains. The combination of quarterback, receivers, and an offensive line tailor-made for the passing game has the Pats a no-brainer for the top slot.

2. INDIANAPOLIS

Past results are often a legitimate barometer for future production. That noted, the key to the Colts air game remains Marvin Harrison. If Harrison is lined-up wide, Peyton Manning & Co. will thrive. Reggie Wayne is a superb talent that should be mentioned with the elite. Dallas Clark is tough as nails, and arguably among the three best pass-catchers among tight ends. It's the depth differential that separates Indianapolis and New England.

3. NEW ORLEANS

Drew Brees was absolutely spectacular during a 10-game stretch last season before injuries depleted his arsenal. Marques Colston is playing his way into elite status. Reggie Bush coming out of the backfield along with a healthy Robert Meachem and a solid supporting cast guarantees the Saints will terrorize opposing secondaries.

4. N.Y. GIANTS

It is impossible to overlook the production of this unit in clutch situations during their drive to the title. Yes, Amani Toomer is aging, but Steve Smith began to blossom. Mario Manningham has legit upside; David Tyree and Sinorice Moss provide depth. With or without Jeremy Shockey, the Giants have a receiving threat at tight end in Kevin Boss. Furthermore, the Giants'running game mandates defensives remain honest, which provides Eli Manning ample opportunities to strike.

5. SAN DIEGO

The Chargers' passing game began to gel last season after Chris Chambers donned the Lightning Bolt. Chambers and Antonio Gates are proven commodities. Vincent Jackson prospered from defenders focusing on Chambers and Gates. A healthy Eric Parker and improved Craig Davis offer a high potential ceiling for the '08 Chargers air attack. By the way, LT averaged 58 catches the last two years, and 8.5 yards per catch.

Next in Line: Cleveland — Derek Anderson continues to raise his game along with Kellen Winslow and Braylon Edwards. With Donte' Stallworth added to the group and Mr. Clutch Joe Jurevicius around for another rodeo, the Browns must be respected.

Keep an eye on: Cincinnati — The team of what ifs could rise on this list if they become what is, which is a team filled with big-time receivers. C.J. and T.J. are lethal receivers along with skilled rookies Jerome Simpson and Andre Caldwell. Plus, they have a new wrinkle in tight end Ben Utecht. If quarterback Carson Palmer has his full bevy of receivers, which includes C.J., the Bengals will be unstoppable.

Biggest Disappointment: Detroit — Roy Williams, Calvin Johnson, Shaun McDonald and Mike Furrey comprise a top-drawer stable of receivers in an offense that will fail to utilize them.

Worthy of Mention: Arizona, Dallas, Green Bay, Houston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

RUNNING BACKS

BEST NO. 1

1.	LaDainian Tomlinson	San Diego	5-10	221
2.	Larry Johnson	Kansas City	6-1	230
3.	Steven Jackson	St. Louis	6-2	231
4.	Brian Westbrook	Philadelphia	5-10	203
5.	Adrian Peterson	Minnesota	6-1	217
6.	Marion Barber	Dallas	6-0	221
7.	Frank Gore	San Francisco	5-9	215
8.	Fred Taylor	Jacksonville	6-1	228
9.	Joseph Addai	Indianapolis	5-11	214
10.	Willie Parker	Pittsburgh	5-10	209

BEST NO. 2

1.	Maurice Jones-Drew	Jacksonville	5-7	212
2.	Reggie Bush	New Orleans	6-0	203
3.	Darren McFadden	Oakland	6-2	210
4.	Chester Taylor	Minnesota	5-11	213
5.	DeShaun Foster	San Francisco	6-0	222
6.	Jerious Norwood	Atlanta	6-0	203
7.	Ladell Betts	Washington	5-10	223
8.	Maurice Morris	Seattle	5-11	216
9.	Earnest Graham	Tampa Bay	5-9	225
10.	Selvin Young	Denver	5-11	207

■ **Next in Line:** Willis McGahee (No. 1), Baltimore and Kenny Watson (No. 2), Cincinnati (AFC); Clinton Portis (No. 1), Washington and Derrick Ward (No. 2), N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Fred Taylor and Maurice Jones-Drew, Jacksonville (AFC); Adrian Peterson and Chester Taylor, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated Tandem:** Justin Fargas and Darren McFadden, Oakland (AFC); Michael Turner and Jerious Norwood, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie Tandem:** Ray Rice and Allen Patrick, Baltimore (AFC); Felix Jones and Tashard Choice, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Bounce Back Tandem:** Rudi Johnson and Kenny Watson, Cincinnati (AFC); Deuce McAllister and Reggie Bush, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Best Trio:** Fred Taylor, Maurice Jones-Drew and Greg Jones (FB), Jacksonville (AFC); Frank Gore, DeShaun Foster and Michael Robinson, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Best Rookies:** Darren McFadden, Oakland (AFC); Jonathan Stewart, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Darren McFadden, Oakland (AFC); Michael Turner, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Pass Catcher:** Kevin Faulk, New England (AFC); Brian Westbrook, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Keep An Eye On:** Rashard Mendenhall, Pittsburgh (AFC); Felix Jones, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Key Returning Injured Stars:** Ronnie Brown, Miami; Larry Johnson, Kansas City and Willie Parker, Pittsburgh (AFC); Deuce McAllister, New Orleans (NFC).

FULLBACKS

1.	Greg Jones	Jacksonville	6-1	254
2.	Mike Karney	New Orleans	5-11	258
3.	Jeremi Johnson	Cincinnati	5-11	260
4.	Le'Ron McClain	Baltimore	6-0	260
5.	Ahmard Hall	Tennessee	5-11	242
6.	Thomas Tapeh	Minnesota	6-1	243
7.	Terrelle Smith	Arizona	6-0	246
8.	Madison Hedgecock	N.Y. Giants	6-3	226
9.	Andrew Pinnock	San Diego	5-10	250
10.	Justin Griffith	Oakland	6-0	230

■ **Next In Line:** Tony Richardson, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Ovie Mughelli, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Underrated:** Lawrence Vickers, Cleveland (AFC); Leonard Weaver, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Becoming A Factor:** Heath Evans, New England (AFC); Korey Hall, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Justin Green and Le'Ron McClain, Baltimore (AFC); Leonard Weaver and Owen Schmitt, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Peyton Hillis, Denver (AFC); Owen Schmitt, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Tony Richardson, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Thomas Tapeh, Minnesota (NFC).

Ranking by Team: RUNNING GAME

1. SAN DIEGO

What was it that we noted last year? Oh, that's right: LaDainian Tomlinson, LaDainian Tomlinson, and LaDainian Tomlinson.

2. MINNESOTA VIKINGS

While the name Adrian Peterson carries marquee value, the key to this attack is a fabulous offensive line with a hardcore interior that provides a plethora of options for any runner. Peterson just so happens to maximize those opportunities. Chester Taylor is a perfect No. 2 and Maurice Hicks a respectable No. 3. The mixture is spiced with a mobile quarterback as well as a superb addition in lead fullback Thomas Tapeh. This group will do damage figuratively and literally to the opposition.

3. JACKSONVILLE

Fred Taylor proved he remains a force to be reckoned with last year. Maurice Jones-Drew simply makes plays, and Greg Jones has developed into the best all-around fullback in the NFL nowadays.

4. SAN FRANCISCO

49ers offensive coordinator Mike Martz has the deepest group of runners at his disposal than he's had during a notable career. Frank Gore is a legitimate franchise runner, who is now supported by DeShaun Foster. Michael Robinson remains a versatile and improving option and Alex Smith is capable of taking advantage of lax defenses.

5. BALTIMORE

The Ravens possess a difference-maker in Willis McGahee with a perfect complement in rookie Ray Rice. Expect a re-worked offensive line and big-time fullback Le'Ron McClain to clear the way for one of the league's best power attacks.

Next in Line: Kansas City — Assuming that Larry Johnson returns to form with Kolby Smith and Jamaal Charles providing a breather, the Chiefs will control the clock.

Keep an eye on: Dallas — Marion Barber ranks among the three best power backs in the league. If Felix Jones plays to potential complemented by a fine passing game, this tandem will ensure a higher ranking in December.

Biggest Disappointment: St. Louis Rams — The lack of proven depth and a legitimate fullback could prevent Steven Jackson from maximizing his vast potential.

Worthy of mention: Buffalo, Cleveland, Indianapolis, N.Y. Giants, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington.

Status Unknown: Miami, New Orleans and Tampa Bay. Injuries have this trio remaining an enigma. If their respective, key components return to health, watch out.

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

LEFT SIDE

1.	Walter Jones	Seattle	6-5	315
2.	Orlando Pace	St. Louis	6-7	325
3.	Jason Peters	Buffalo	6-4	340
4.	Joe Thomas	Cleveland	6-6	315
5.	Joe Staley	San Francisco	6-5	306
6.	Chris Samuels	Washington	6-5	310
7.	Flozell Adams	Dallas	6-7	340
8.	Marcus McNeill	San Diego	6-7	336
9.	Chad Clifton	Green Bay	6-5	320
10.	Bryant McKinnie	Minnesota	6-8	335

RIGHT SIDE

1.	Jordan Gross	Carolina	6-4	300
2.	Vernon Carey	Miami	6-5	335
3.	Eric Winston	Houston	6-5	310
4.	Kareem McKenzie	N.Y. Giants	6-6	327
5.	Ryan Diem	Indianapolis	6-6	320
6.	Mark Tauscher	Green Bay	6-3	315
7.	Marc Colombo	Dallas	6-8	320
8.	Jon Runyan	Philadelphia	6-7	330
9.	Kevin Shaffer	Cleveland	6-5	325
10.	David Stewart	Tennessee	6-7	318

■ **Next In Line:** Levi Jones (LT) and Willie Anderson (RT), Cincinnati (AFC); Jammal Brown (LT), New Orleans and Jeremy Trueblood (RT), Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Joe Thomas and Kevin Shaffer, Cleveland (AFC); Flozell Adams and Marc Colombo, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Jake Long, Miami (AFC); Sam Baker, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Jake Long, Miami (AFC); Sam Baker, Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Eric Winston, Houston (AFC); Alex Barron, St. Louis (NFC).

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

LEFT SIDE

1.	Steve Hutchinson	Minnesota	6-5	313
2.	Alan Faneca	N.Y. Jets	6-5	307
3.	Eric Steinbach	Cleveland	6-6	290
4.	Kris Dielman	San Diego	6-4	310
5.	Logan Mankins	New England	6-4	310
6.	Rich Seubert	N.Y. Giants	6-3	310
7.	Brian Waters	Kansas City	6-3	318
8.	Ryan Lilja	Indianapolis	6-2	290
9.	Chester Pitts	Houston	6-4	318
10.	Jason Brown	Baltimore	6-3	320

RIGHT SIDE

1.	Chris Snee	N.Y. Giants	6-3	317
2.	Leonard Davis	Arizona	6-6	354
3.	Jake Scott	Tennessee	6-5	295
4.	Justin Smiley	Miami	6-3	311
5.	Shawn Andrews	Philadelphia	6-4	340
6.	Deuce Lutui	Arizona	6-4	338
7.	Kynan Forney	Atlanta	6-3	307
8.	Davin Joseph	Tampa Bay	6-3	313
9.	Richie Incognito	St. Louis	6-3	305
10.	Brad Butler	Buffalo	6-7	315

■ **Next In Line:** Ben Grubbs (RG), Baltimore and Andrew Whitworth (LG), Cincinnati (AFC); Jahri Evans (RG), New Orleans and Jacob Bell (LG), St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Jason Brown and Ben Grubbs, Baltimore (AFC); Rich Seubert and Chris Snee, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Best Addition:** Alan Faneca, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Jacob Bell, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Branden Albert, Kansas City (AFC); Chilo Rachal, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Brad Butler, Buffalo (AFC); Richie Incognito, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** Charles Johnson, Indianapolis (AFC); Jahri Evans, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Underrated Duo:** Derrick Dockery and Brad Butler, Buffalo (AFC); Aaron Sears and Davin Joseph, Tampa Bay (NFC) ■ **Future Stars:** Brad Butler, Buffalo (AFC); Deuce Lutui, Arizona (NFC).

CENTERS

1.	Jeff Saturday	Indianapolis	6-2	295
2.	Nick Mangold	N.Y. Jets	6-4	300
3.	Brad Meester	Jacksonville	6-3	295
4.	Andre Gurode	Dallas	6-4	316
5.	Nick Hardwick	San Diego	6-4	295
6.	Matt Birk	Minnesota	6-4	309
7.	Kevin Mawae	Tennessee	6-4	289
8.	Olin Kreutz	Chicago	6-2	292
9.	Dan Koppen	New England	6-2	296
10.	Jeff Faine	Tampa Bay	6-3	291

■ **Next In Line:** Melvin Fowler, Buffalo (AFC); Shaun O'Hara, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Brad Meester and Dennis Norman, Jacksonville (AFC); Andre Gurode and Cory Procter, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Best Interior:** Hank Fraley (C); Eric Steinbach and Rex Hadnot, Cleveland (AFC); Shaun O'Hara (C), Chris Snee and Rich Seubert, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Underrated Interior:** Chris Chester (C), Jason Brown and Ben Grubbs, Baltimore (AFC); Jonathan Goodwin (C), Jahri Evans and Jamar Nesbit, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Casey Wiegmann, Denver (AFC); Jeff Faine, Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Future Stars:** Chris Chester, Baltimore (AFC); Ryan Kalil, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** Melvin Fowler, Buffalo (AFC); Ryan Kalil, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Chris Chester, Baltimore (AFC); Chris Spencer, Seattle (NFC).

Ranking by Team: OFFENSIVE LINE

1. CLEVELAND

This is a projection selection, however with Joe Thomas and Kevin Shaffer manning the flanks and a deep cast of interior linemen this unit could prove the catalyst in the Browns' return to postseason play. Eric Steinbach leads the inside trench men.

2. N.Y. GIANTS

The defensive line and Eli Manning grabbed the headlines during the Giants trek to the Super Bowl, but lost in the mix was this cast that battled four stout defenses succeeding individually and collectively playing physical and disciplined football. All five starters return and each started all 16 games last season.

3. NEW ENGLAND

It appears that 60 minutes overshadowed a body of work that was the envy of many. This cast works in unison as one of the best pass-blocking units of this era.

The left side of the unit is top notch. The Patriots retain solid depth in securing Tom Brady.

4. NEW ORLEANS

As the old axiom goes, "the sum is greater than the parts." The Saints interior group is consistent and reliable. If tackles Jammal Brown and Jon Stinchcomb can raise their game, this unit can match any in the league.

5. DALLAS

A handful of key components enjoyed the best year of their careers. If the likes of Andre Gurode and Leonard Davis continue moving upwardly, this interior trio ranks with the best in the league. The Cowboys have some intriguing youthful backups as well.

Next in Line: Indianapolis — Simply stated, this group is fundamentally sound, and arguably the best-coached in the business. While the group is no longer dominant, they remain good enough to keep Peyton Manning upright all the while opening holes for Joseph Addai.

Keep an eye on: San Diego — Despite the fact the Chargers advanced to the AFC Championship Game, this unit failed to meet expectations. Marcus McNeill failed to elevate his game. Some question if the wear and tear of the trenches is slowing Kris Dielman and Nick Hardwick. If the three aforementioned players return to form, this can be a dominant unit. Keep and eye on right tackle Jeromey Clary; he has the potential to be a top-10 player at his position.

Keep an eye on II: Minnesota — The Vikings' starting five is a powerful cast that proved an immovable force at times. The interior trio has few peers. If Bryant McKinnie maximizes potential, forget about it.

Biggest Disappointment: Green Bay — This is a group that has grown together with plenty of upside remaining. That noted, aging tackles battling injuries and inconsistent performances of the youthful interior linemen void of the intuitive Brett Favre could be a recipe for disaster.

Worthy of Mention: Buffalo, Miami, New York Jets, Philadelphia, Tennessee and Washington.

DEFENSIVE ENDS

LEFT SIDE

1.	Julius Peppers	Carolina	6-7	283
2.	Michael Strahan	N.Y. Giants	6-5	275
3.	Aaron Kampman	Green Bay	6-4	270
4.	Trevor Pryce	Baltimore	6-5	286
5.	Patrick Kerney	Seattle	6-5	275
6.	Robert Mathis	Indianapolis	6-2	245
7.	Luis Castillo	San Diego	6-3	290
8.	Will Smith	New Orleans	6-3	282
9.	Leonard Little	St. Louis	6-3	261
10.	Shaun Ellis	New York Jets	6-5	285

RIGHT SIDE

1.	Richard Seymour	New England	6-6	310
2.	Dwight Freeney	Indianapolis	6-1	268
3.	Jared Allen	Minnesota	6-6	270
4.	Trent Cole	Philadelphia	6-3	270
5.	Mario Williams	Houston	6-6	293
6.	Osi Umenyiora	N.Y. Giants	6-3	261
7.	Robert Geathers	Cincinnati	6-3	265
8.	Tamba Hali	Kansas City	6-3	275
9.	Justin Smith	San Francisco	6-4	275
10.	Aaron Schobel	Buffalo	6-4	243

■ **Next in Line:** Ty Warren (LE), New England and Elvis Dumervil (RE), Denver (AFC); Darnell Dockett (LE), Arizona and Dewayne White, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis, Indianapolis (AFC); Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated Tandem:** Mario Williams and N.D. Kalu/Anthony Weaver, Houston (AFC); Cullen Jenkins and Aaron Kampman, Green Bay (NFC) ■ **Bounce Back Tandem**: Charles Grant and Will Smith, New Orleans. ■ **Best Trio:** Dwight Freeney, Robert Mathis and Josh Thomas, Indianapolis (AFC); Michael Strahan, Osi Umenyiora and Justin Tuck, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Underrated Trio:** Charles Grant, Will Smith and Bobby McCray, New Orleans. ■ **Best Rookies:** Vernon Gholston, N.Y. Jets (AFC); Chris Long, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Vernon Gholston, N.Y. Jets and Derrick Harvey, Jacksonville (AFC); Jared Allen, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Jarvis Moss (LE) and Ellis Dumervil (RE), Denver (AFC); Juqua Thomas, Philadelphia (LE) and Ray Edwards (RE), Minnesota (NFC).

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

1.	Kevin Williams	Minnesota	6-5	311
2.	John Henderson	Jacksonville	6-7	325
3.	Tommie Harris	Chicago	6-3	295
4.	Albert Haynesworth	Tennessee	6-6	320
5.	*Haloti Ngata	Baltimore	6-3	340
6.	Amobi Okoye	Houston	6-2	302
7.	Mike Patterson	Philadelphia	6-0	292
8.	Brandon Mebane	Seattle	6-1	314
9.	Tommy Kelly	Oakland	6-6	300
10.	Cory Redding	Detroit	6-4	295

*3-4 defensive end

NOSE TACKLES

1.	Casey Hampton	Pittsburgh	6-1	325
2.	Pat Williams	Minnesota	6-3	317
3.	Vince Wilfork	New England	6-2	325
4.	Kelly Gregg	Baltimore	6-0	310
5.	Jamal Williams	San Diego	6-3	348
6.	Kris Jenkins	N.Y. Jets	6-4	335
7.	Ryan Pickett	Green Bay	6-2	322
8.	Shaun Rogers	Cleveland	6-4	340
9.	Jason Ferguson	Miami	6-3	310
10.	Jay Ratliff	Dallas	6-4	298

■ **Next In Line:** Domata Peko, Cincinnati (AFC); Corey Redding, Detroit (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Kelly Gregg and Haloti Ngata (3-4 DE), (AFC); Kevin Williams and Pat Williams, Minnesota (NFC). ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Terdell Sands and Tommy Kelly, Oakland (AFC); Brandon Mebane and Rocky Bernard, Seattle (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Glenn Dorsey, Kansas City (AFC); Kentwan Balmer, San Francisco (NFC) ■ **Best Additions:** Marcus Stroud, Buffalo (AFC); Darwin Walker/Ian Scott, Carolina (NFC). ■ **Comeback Season:** Terdell Sands, Oakland (AFC); Tank Johnson, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Quinn Pitcock, Indianapolis (AFC); Brodrick Bunkley, Philadelphia (NFC). ■ **Most Underrated:** Domata Peko, Cincinnati (AFC); Jonathan Babineaux, Atlanta (NFC).

Ranking by Team: DEFENSIVE LINE

1. MINNESOTA

Without question, the Vikings will field the best starting foursome in the league. Kevin Williams and Pat Williams rank as the best inside tandem assembled in memory. The addition of Jared Allen guarantees the Vikes are without peer. Ray Edwards will reap the benefits of blockers focusing schemes to battle his linemates. The supporting troops are solid as well.

2. N.Y. GIANTS

Yes, if Michael Strahan returns this year, the Giants will boast the best trench men in all the land. The combination of the Giants' offensive and defensive fronts is reason alone to believe they can repeat as Super Bowl champs. Osi Umenyiora and Justin Tuck make life miserable for opposing passers. The interior is bolstered with four "can-do" players.

3. BALTIMORE

The Ravens' ranking is based on quantity because they field a number of players capable of making plays. It features difference-makers in Trevor Pryce and Haloti Ngata.

4. NEW ENGLAND

When healthy, Richard Seymour is one of the best players in the league — not defensive linemen — but one of the best players. Vince Wilfork anchors the interior with Ty Warren's ever-present knack for the big play. The Pats have solid depth and a top-notch designated pass rusher in Jarvis Green.

5. SAN DIEGO

Frankly this unit should rank higher. The Chargers have terrific athleticism across the board with their big men. However, while good, the potential to be dominant is real. Jamal Williams must find another gear this season, and Luis Castillo must become more of a consistent force.

Next in Line: Philadelphia — This is a unit that has as much upside as any in the league. The gaggle of defensive ends, led by Trent Cole, has monstrous ability to reach the passer. Inside, Mike Patterson and Brodrick Bunkley have the makings of a utopian tandem with the depth enhanced by the addition of rookie Trevor Laws.

Keep an eye on: Tennessee — The Titans field Albert Haynesworth as the bell cow on the inside, with Kyle Vanden Bosch ranking as an underrated force chasing quarterbacks. Depth has been depleted by defection. If Jevon Kearse can muster another year at a high level and rookie Jason Jones quickly transforms potential into production, this group can thrive.

Biggest Disappointment: Chicago — The Bears' defensive interior remains suspect, lacking proven depth and a forceful partner teaming with Tommie Harris. The Bears' defensive ends have great pass rushing potential, but they have failed all too often to step up in crunch time. Many are forecasting a rebound. It is simply a solid, but unspectacular unit.

Worthy of Mention: Buffalo, Cleveland, Dallas, Green Bay, Indianapolis, New Orleans and Seattle.

LINEBACKERS

MIDDLE/INSIDE LINEBACKERS

1.	Ray Lewis	Baltimore	6-1	250
2.	Brian Urlacher	Chicago	6-4	258
3.	Patrick Willis	San Francisco	6-1	242
4.	James Farrior	Pittsburgh	6-2	243
5.	Kirk Morrison	Oakland	6-2	240
6.	Johnathan Vilma	New Orleans	6-1	230
7.	Will Witherspoon	St. Louis	6-1	234
8.	Lofa Tatupu	Seattle	6-0	238
9.	DeMeco Ryans	Houston	6-1	239
10.	Antonio Pierce	N.Y. Giants	6-1	238
11.	Nick Barnett	Green Bay	6-2	232
12.	Jon Beason	Carolina	6-0	237
13.	Bart Scott	Baltimore	6-2	240
14.	Barrett Rudd	Tampa Bay	5-2	241
15.	Zach Thomas	Dallas	5-11	228

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

SAM/STRONG SIDE

1.	Shawne Merriman	San Diego	6-4	272
2.	Michael Boley	Atlanta	6-3	236
3.	Jason Taylor	Miami	6-6	255
4.	Terrell Suggs	Baltimore	6-3	260
5.	Greg Ellis	Dallas	6-6	270
6.	Derrick Johnson	Kansas City	6-3	242
7.	Mike Vrabel	New England	6-4	261
8.	David Thornton	Tennessee	6-2	225
9.	Joey Porter	Miami	6-3	250
10.	LaMarr Woodley	Pittsburgh	6-2	265

WILL/WEAK SIDE

1.	DeMarcus Ware	Dallas	6-4	257
2.	Keith Bulluck	Tennessee	6-3	235
3.	D.J. Williams	Denver	6-1	242
4.	Julian Peterson	Seattle	6-3	235
5.	Adalius Thomas	New England	6-2	270
6.	A.J. Hawk	Green Bay	6-1	247
7.	Shaun Phillips	San Diego	6-3	262
8.	James Harrison	Pittsburgh	6-0	242
9.	Keith Brooking	Atlanta	6-2	245
10.	Lance Briggs	Chicago	6-1	240
	Kamerion Wimbley	Cleveland	6-3	245
	Derrick Brooks	Tampa Bay	6-0	235

■ **Next In Line:** Gary Brackett (I), Indianapolis, Angelo Crowell (SLB), and Freddie Keiaho (WLB), Indianapolis (AFC); E.J. Henderson (I), Minnesota, Cato June (SLB) and Ernie Sims (WLB), Detroit (NFC). ■ **Best Inside/Outside Tandem:** Ray Lewis (I) and Terrell Suggs (O), Baltimore (AFC); Brian Urlacher (I) and Lance Briggs (O), Chicago (NFC). ■ **Inside Tandem:** Ray Lewis and Bart Scott, Baltimore (AFC); Brandon Moore and Patrick Willis, San Francisco (NFC). ■ **Outside Tandem:** Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips, San Diego

(AFC); DeMarcus Ware and Greg Ellis, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Ahmad Brooks (I) and Odell Thurman (O), Cincinnati (AFC); Michael Boley (O) and Keith Brooking (O), Atlanta (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Jerod Mayo (I), New England and Keith Rivers (O), Cincinnati (AFC); Curtis Lofton (I), Atlanta and Dan Connor (O), Carolina (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Keith Rivers (O), Cincinnati (AFC); Johnathan Vilma (I), New Orleans. ■ **Breakout Season:** Ahmad Brooks (I), Cincinnati; Chad Greenway (O), Minnesota (NFC).

Ranking by Team: LINEBACKERS

1. SAN DIEGO

The Chargers have a terrific meld of veterans sprinkled with youthful potential in the wings. Veteran craftsmen, crazed attack dogs and ridiculous athleticism. The names Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips justify the ranking.

2. SEATTLE

Lofa Tatupu is the backbone of the Seahawks defense. Julian Peterson is the difference-maker. LeRoy Hill seemingly has his name called most when the game is on the line. The lack of quality outside depth is worrisome.

3. CHICAGO

Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs... enough said.

4. BALTIMORE

When Ray Lewis is the anchor, the unit will be top of the line. This group could rank atop this list. In order to reach that level, Bart Scott must performer better. Terrell Suggs must return to the premier level displayed in 2006 and Jarrett Johnson must finally elevate his game. While the unit has big names, they've failed to make the big plays in 2007.

5. DALLAS

The Cowboys 'backers could make quantum leaps this season if Zach Thomas has anything left in the tank. DeMarcus Ware and Greg Ellis rival Shawne Merriman and Shaun Phillips as the best outside tandem in the league. If Bradie James stays the course and Thomas devours runners funneled his way... bank on the Cowboys front-seven ranking as the best in the league.

Next in Line: Green Bay — Nick Barnett and A.J. Hawk constitute a terrific inside-outside twosome supported by a solid collection of roles players.

Keep an eye on: Indianapolis — This smallish group of aggressive defenders lack the "name value," however performs within the Colts scheme. Tyjuan Hagler, Freddie Keiaho and Clint Session form the most underrated group of outside 'backers in the league.

Biggest Disappointment: New England — If Jerod Mayo fails to inject life into the Patriots interior 'backers, this once dominant unit could begin to slip. A key to the Patriots defense has been a deep group of linebackers. Maintaining this has been a focal point of upgrading in the offseason... time will tell if the Pats properly supplemented.

Next in Line: Atlanta, Buffalo, Carolina, Jacksonville, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Tennessee.

CORNERBACKS

NO. 1

1.	Champ Bailey	Denver	6-0	192
2.	Asante Samuel	Philadelphia	5-10	185
3.	Antonio Cromartie	San Diego	6-2	203
4.	Marcus Trufant	Seattle	5-11	197
5.	Antoine Winfield	Minnesota	5-9	180
6.	Al Harris	Green Bay	6-1	188
7.	Nate Clements	San Francisco	6-1	209
8.	Ronde Barber	Tampa Bay	5-10	184
9.	Chris McAlister	Baltimore	6-1	206
10.	Rashean Mathis	Jacksonville	6-1	195
	Terance Newman	Dallas	5-11	195

NO. 2

1.	Nnamdi Asomugha	Oakland	6-2	210
2.	Kelvin Hayden	Indianapolis	6-0	195
3.	Charles Woodson	Green Bay	6-1	200
4.	Quentin Jammer	San Diego	6-0	204
5.	Dre' Bly	Denver	5-10	188
6.	Kelly Jennings	Seattle	5-11	180
7.	Leon Hall	Cincinnati	5-11	199
8.	Samari Rolle	Baltimore	6-0	175
9.	Nick Harper	Tennessee	5-10	182
10.	Randall Gay	New Orleans	5-11	190

■ **Next In Line:** DeAngelo Hall, Oakland (AFC); Charles Tillman, Chicago (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Antonio Cromartie and Quentin Jammer, San Diego (AFC); Charles Woodson and Al Harris, Green Bay (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Brandon Flowers, Kansas City (AFC); Mike Jenkins, Dallas (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** DeAngelo Hall, Oakland (AFC); Randall Gay, New Orleans (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Kelvin Hayden, Indianapolis (AFC); Tye Hill, St. Louis (NFC). ■ **Comeback Season:** Samari Rolle, Baltimore (AFC); Carlos Rogers, Washington (NFC). ■ **Underrated:** Johnathan Joseph, Cincinnati (AFC); Richard Marshall, Carolina (NFC).

SAFETIES

FREE SAFETIES

1.	Ed Reed	Baltimore	5-11	200
2.	Ken Hamlin	Dallas	6-2	209
3.	Brian Dawkins	Philadelphia	6-0	210
4.	Antoine Bethea	Indianapolis	5-11	203
5.	Reggie Nelson	Jacksonville	5-11	198
6.	Tanard Jackson	Tampa Bay	6-0	200
7.	Madieu Williams	Minnesota	6-1	203
8.	Eric Weddle	San Diego	5-11	200
9.	Michael Griffin	Tennessee	6-0	202
10.	Deon Grant	Seattle	6-2	210

STRONG SAFETIES

1.	Bob Sanders	Indianapolis	5-8	206
2.	Troy Polamalu	Pittsburgh	5-10	207
3.	Kerry Rhodes	N.Y. Jets	6-3	210
4.	Bernard Pollard	Kansas City	6-1	224
5.	Gibril Wilson	Oakland	6-0	209
6.	Rodney Harrison	New England	6-1	220
7.	Adrian Wilson	Arizona	6-3	230
8.	Roy Williams	Dallas	6-0	225
9.	Jermaine Phillips	Tampa Bay	6-1	220
10.	Chris Hope	Tennessee	6-0	208
	LaRon Landry	Washington	6-0	213
	Yeremiah Bell	Miami	6-0	200

■ **Next In Line:** Jarrad Page (FS), Kansas City and Dawan Landry (SS), Baltimore (AFC); Oshiomogho Atogwe (FS), St. Louis and James Butler (SS), N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Best Tandem:** Antoine Bethea and Bob Sanders, Indianapolis (AFC); Tanard Jackson and Jermaine Phillips, Tampa Bay (NFC). ■ **Underrated Tandem:** Sean Jones and Brodney Pool, Cleveland (AFC); Antrel Rolle and Adrian Wilson, Arizona (NFC). ■ **Best Rookie:** Tom Zbikowski, Baltimore (AFC); Kenny Phillips, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Best Additions:** Gibril Wilson, Oakland (AFC); Kenny Phillips, N.Y. Giants (NFC). ■ **Breakout Season:** Jarrad Page (FS), Kansas City and Donte Whitner (SS), Buffalo (AFC); Oshiomogho Atogwe (FS), St. Louis and James Butler (SS), N.Y. Giants (NFC).

Ranking by Team: SECONDARY

1. INDIANAPOLIS

Bob Sanders ranks among the 10 best players in the league. Kelvin Hayden has future Pro Bowl selection tattooed on his forehead. Marlin Jackson, Tim Jennings and T.J. Rushing are key components comprising a deep group of cornerbacks. Free safety Antoine Bethea has improved noticeably.

2. OAKLAND

DeAngelo Hall and Nnamdi Asomugha could prove to be the best pair of cornerbacks in the league. Gibril Wilson and Michael Huff could rank among the best safety duos as well. Lack of proven depth separates the Raiders and Colts in the rankings.

3. DENVER

Champ Bailey and Dre' Bly are a formidable cornerback combination. The safety slots are manned by veterans, with Hamza Abdullah on the verge of a breakout season.

4. SEATTLE

The Seahawks are represented strongly. Marcus Trufant headlines the group. Cornerback mate Kelly Jennings is quickly garnering respect. Deon Grant and Brian Russell patrol centerfield with purpose.

5. PHILADELPHIA

The Eagles will either line up an impressive pair of cornerbacks in Asante Samuel and Sheldon Brown, or a terrific trio if Lito Sheppard remains in Philly. Inside, Brian Dawkins still commands respect. The depth at safety is suspect.

Next in Line: Baltimore — Safety Ed Reed makes big plays that change games. He headlines a solid array of safeties. The question is whether cornerbacks Chris McAlister and Samari Rolle are capable of returning and staying healthy as a shutdown combo. If they do, this is an elite group.

Keep an eye on: Green Bay — The Packers' cornerbacks, Al Harris and Charles Woodson, still rank among the best. The Packers' safeties are young and aggressive. The question is whether they can collectively elevate their game.

Biggest Disappointment: Washington — The Redskins' secondary boasts name value, but can their veterans cornerbacks play to reputation? In addition, the lack of quality backups up the middle is disconcerting.

Worthy of Mention: Arizona, Buffalo, Carolina, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, San Francisco and Tampa Bay.

SPECIAL TEAMS

KICKERS

Kickoffs are factored into rankings

1.	Rob Bironas	Tennessee	6-0	205
2.	Jason Elam	Atlanta	5-11	195
3.	Jeff Reed	Pittsburgh	5-11	225
4.	Jay Feely	Miami	5-10	210
5.	Adam Vinatieri	Indianapolis	6-0	202
6.	Nate Kaeding	San Diego	6-0	187
7.	Josh Brown	St. Louis	6-0	202
8.	Kris Brown	Houston	5-11	209
9.	Stephen Gostkowski	New England	6-1	210
10.	Jason Hanson	Detroit	6-0	190
	Nick Folk	Dallas	6-1	222

PUNTERS

1.	Shane Lechler	Oakland	6-2	225
2.	Andy Lee	San Francisco	6-0	183
3.	Mat McBriar	Dallas	6-1	223
4.	Mike Scifres	San Diego	6-2	236
5.	Josh Bidwell	Tampa Bay	6-3	220
6.	Brian Moorman	Buffalo	6-0	172
7.	Dustin Colquitt	Kansas City	6-3	210
8.	Nick Harris	Detroit	6-0	190
9.	Jason Baker	Carolina	6-2	205
10.	Matt Turk	Houston	6-5	245

RETURN SPECIALISTS

1.	Devin Hester (KR/PR)	Chicago	5-11	186
2.	Joshua Cribbs (KR/PR)	Cleveland	6-1	215
3.	*Pacman Jones (PR)	Dallas	5-10	185
4.	Nate Burleson (KR/PR)	Seattle	6-0	192
5.	Darren Sproles (KR/PR)	San Diego	5-6	181
6.	Roscoe Parrish (PR)	Buffalo	5-9	171
7.	Andre' Davis (KR)	Houston	6-1	194
8.	Maurice Jones-Drew (KR)	Jacksonville	5-7	208
9.	Leon Washington (KR/PR)	New York Jets	6-0	203
10.	Yamon Figures (KR/PR)	Baltimore	5-11	175

*Subject to reinstatement

A LOOK AHEAD

*Indicates underclassman

By John Hadley

Quarterbacks

If Tim Tebow and Matthew Stafford fail to make the assumed progress this season jumping into the draft pool, it will mark the second straight draft that the passer pickings are thin. Curtis Painter has the tools and classic qualities that pro scouts desire. The remainder of the upperclassmen remain enigmas. Hunter Cantwell has the size and arm, but is lacking the experience, seeing limited action playing second fiddle to Brian Brohm at Louisville. ... Cullen Harper has raw abilities and leadership skills, but has had total underwhelming results. ... Is Graham Harrell a product of the Texas Tech system? Is Chase Daniel too small? Can Todd Boeckman put it together in big games? Without Ray Rice and Brian Leonard, can Mike Teel carry Rutgers with his arm? Should few of the aforementioned questions be answered positively, teams will once again be forced to "reach" in an attempt to bolster their roster with suspect quarterbacks. It's been some time since the potential two-year pool has been so shallow on draft day.

1. *TIM TEBOW	6-3	234	FLORIDA
2. CURTIS PAINTER	6-3	225	PURDUE
3. HUNTER CANTWELL	6-4	230	LOUISVILLE
4. *MATTHEW STAFFORD	6-2	235	GEORGIA
5. CULLEN HARPER	6-3	215	CLEMSON
6. GRAHAM HARRELL	6-1	202	TEXAS TECH
7. CHASE HOLBROOK	6-5	235	NEW MEXICO STATE
8. CHASE DANIEL	5-11	225	MISSOURI
9. *NATE DAVIS	6-2	215	BALL STATE
10. TODD BOECKMAN	6-4	233	OHIO STATE
11. RUDY CARPENTER	6-1	200	ARIZONA STATE
12. MIKE TEEL	6-3	216	RUTGERS
13. TOM BRANDSTATER	6-4	220	FRESNO STATE
14. RHETT BOMAR	6-2	217	SAM HOUSTON STATE
15. SEAN GLENNON	6-4	220	VIRGINIA TECH

Running Backs

Clemson's James Davis flirted with the idea of bypassing his senior season to enter the 2008 NFL draft. After contemplation, he decided to return to Clemson this fall. Obviously one of the main reasons for his decision was talent; however a heavy dose of reality factored into the possibility of turning pro: a teammate. C.J. Spiller is a big-time, big-play, hardcore player that is Davis' equal. Combined, this tandem guarantees the Tigers will be an offensive force this season. Next April, they're guaranteed to have NFL teams debating who would prove a better fit at the next level. Regardless, Davis and Spiller are legit first-round players that will play on Sunday in the near future. ... Ohio State's Chris Wells tops the list entering the fall as a complete package. His performance against Michigan solidified his ability to excel and produce on the main stage. He has the size, strength, speed and vision to fill a lead role on the next level as a rookie. ... Javon Ringer proved capable of breaking big runs throughout his junior season. ... P.J. Hill is the latest in a line of Badgers runners that badger opponents in a physical nature as a power runner. ... Boise State's Ian Johnson is Mr. Reliable. ... Emmanuel Moody transferred from Southern Cal to Florida where he displayed terrific skills in the spring. However, he has an issue holding onto the ball. ... The overall depth at running back is questionable, but there are a handful of legit big-time prospects in the group.

1. *CHRIS WELLS	6-0	230	OHIO STATE
2. *C.J. SPILLER	5-10	190	CLEMSON
3. JAMES DAVIS	5-11	205	CLEMSON
4. JAVON RINGER	5-11	205	MICHIGAN STATE
5. *P.J. HILL	5-10	223	WISCONSIN
6. IAN JOHNSON	5-10	204	BOISE STATE
7. MARLON LUCKY	5-11	210	NEBRASKA
8. ARIAN FOSTER	6-0	228	TENNESSEE
9. *EMMANUEL MOODY	6-0	200	FLORIDA
10. JEREMIAH JOHNSON	5-9	210	OREGON
11. RODNEY FERGUSON	5-11	226	NEW MEXICO
12. ANTONE SMITH	5-8	190	FLORIDA STATE
13. ANDRE BROWN	5-11	233	NORTH CAROLINA STATE
14. TYLER ROEHL	5-10	228	NORTH DAKOTA STATE
15. *MIKE GOODSON	5-11	200	TEXAS A&M
16. *KEILAND WILLIAMS	5-11	224	LOUISIANA STATE
17. TYRELL SUTTON	5-9	195	NORTHWESTERN
18. DARRELL MACK	6-0	219	UTAH
19. KORY SHEETS	5-11	200	PURDUE
20. KEEGAN HERRING	5-10	187	ARIZONA STATE

Fullbacks

On the collegiate level, Jorvorskie Lane terrorizes defensive alignments as a tailback. At the next level, he'll best be served as a lead blocker, with the skills to keep defenses honest between the 20s while being a force near the goal line. ... Rich Belton is a smash-mouth player. ... Brannan Southerland is a talented player that is becoming a legit factor near the goal line. ... Wisconsin's duo of Chris Pressley and Bill Rentmeester play with pretense: It's all physical all the time. Both are capable of being hardcore factors on special teams as well.

1. JORVORSKIE LANE	5-11	270	TEXAS A&M
2. RICH BELTON	6-0	258	WAKE FOREST
3. BRANNAN SOUTHERLAND	6-0	240	GEORGIA
4. CONREDGE COLLINS	5-11	240	PITTSBURGH
5. BROCK BOLEN	5-11	241	LOUISVILLE
6. CHRIS PRESSLEY	6-1	259	WISCONSIN
7. BILL RENTMEESTER	5-11	250	WISCONSIN
8. ASAPH SCHWAPP	5-11	253	NOTRE DAME
9. JASON COOK	5-11	240	MISSISSIPPI
10. JOHN JOHNSON	6-1	255	OKLAHOMA STATE

Wide Receivers

For the second straight season — see quarterbacks — this position is sparse with big-time players that could be lessened if the expected underclassmen decide to exhaust their full allotment of college eligibility. Florida's Percy Harvin is an electrifying player capable of going the distance from anywhere on the field as a runner, receiver or returner. He'll line up in the backfield, in the slot, virtually anywhere on the field. His ability to create plays is exceptional, all the while capable of absorbing punishment without being slowed. ... Darrius Heyward-Bey is a big-play specialist. ... Louisiana State has two more skilled receivers to contribute to the NFL in Demetrius Byrd and Brandon LaFell. ... Southern Cal's Vidal Hazelton has enormous upside and could rank in the top three if he transforms potential into production. ... North Carolina's Hakeem Nicks displayed the abilities to rank as the school's best in memory. This is a solid group, although relatively underwhelming.

1. *PERCY HARVIN	5-11	183	FLORIDA
2. *DARRIUS HEYWARD-BEY	6-2	205	MARYLAND
3. BRIAN ROBISKIE	6-2	195	OHIO STATE
4. PATRICK TURNER	6-4	220	SOUTHERN CAL
5. GREG CARR	6-5	211	FLORIDA STATE
6. DEMETRIUS BYRD	6-2	195	LOUISIANA STATE
7. *BRANDON LAFELL	6-3	195	LOUISIANA STATE

8. BRANDON GIBSON	6-0	204	WASHINGTON STATE
9. MICHAEL JONES	6-3	217	ARIZONA STATE
10. *VIDAL HAZELTON	6-2	203	SOUTHERN CAL
11. *HAKEEM NICKS	6-1	212	NORTH CAROINA
12. JARETT DILLARD	5-10	178	RICE
13. DERRICK WILLIAMS	5-11	208	PENN STATE
14. JUAQUIN IGLESIAS	6-0	202	OKLAHOMA
15. AARON KELLY	6-4	190	CLEMSON
16. *JEREMY CHILDS	5-11	185	BOISE STATE
17. MIKE THOMAS	5-8	178	ARIZONA
18. DANTE LOVE	5-10	175	BALL STATE
19. JAISON WILLIAMS	6-4	240	OREGON
20. *KENNY BRITT	6-3	205	RUTGERS

Tight Ends

The 2009 tight end draft class is once again full of skilled players capable of becoming instant factors at the next level as pass catchers. ... Travis Beckum would have been a high pick in April, but chose to return for this season. He is the most refined of the premier prospects. ... Florida's Cornelius Ingram is a developing star with eye-popping athleticism. He is a superb pass-catcher capable of extending plays with terrific moves after the catch. ... Darius Hill might be the best pure receiver of the group, and one of the best in MAC history. ... Chase Coffman has been a key cog in the offensive juggernaut at Mizzou. ... The day Brandon Pettigrew matures on and off the field, he will prove to be one of the best players on the board. The question is whether the light will switch on for him.

1. TRAVIS BECKUM	6-3	225	WISCONSIN
2. CORNELIUS INGRAM	6-3	220	FLORIDA
3. DARIUS HILL	6-5	235	BALL STATE
4. CHASE COFFMAN	6-5	245	MISSOURI
5. RYAN PURVIS	6-3	260	BOSTON COLLEGE
6. BRANDON PETTIGREW	6-5	260	OKLAHOMA STATE

TRAVIS BECKUM

PHOTO BY JOE ROBBINS

7. *JERMAINE GRESHAM	6-5	251	OKLAHOMA
8. SHAWN NELSON	6-4	243	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
9. BEAR PASCOE	6-4	259	FRESNO STATE
10. KORY SPERRY	6-5	255	COLORADO STATE

Tackles

Once again, it will be interesting watching teams jockeying for position on draft day in an attempt to snare an available tackle in the first round. Alabama's Andre Smith and Ole Miss' Michael Oher are legitimate franchise-type players. Smith catapulted up the charts last season. His agility and size is a combination that scouts dream of each season. He is a player that is garnering momentum entering the season. Oher, on the other hand, is a potentially dominant player, maybe the best player on the board. The problem is a lack of consistent effort and some questionable decisions off the field. He can completely engulf oncoming traffic with regularity, but all too often seems to have a series that makes some question his focus for 60 minutes. If Oher refines his craft, he is a spectacular player in the mold of a Jonathan Ogden or Orlando Pace. ... Alex Boone, Max Unger and Eugene Monroe are sure-fire first round picks if they continue moving upward this fall. ... The X-factor is Phil Loadholt. He has displayed terrific skills, but it happens too rarely in big games to rate him any higher at this point. This group will have fans yawning and NFL personnel people applauding on draft day.

1. *ANDRE SMITH	6-4	348	ALABAMA
2. MICHAEL OHER	6-4	325	MISSISSIPPI
3. ALEX BOONE	6-7	325	OHIO STATE
4. MAX UNGER	6-4	309	OREGON
5. EUGENE MONROE	6-5	315	VIRGINIA
6. PHIL LOADHOLT	6-7	355	OKLAHOMA
7. SEAN SESTER	6-6	325	PURDUE
8. ANDREW GARDNER	6-5	300	GEORGIA TECH
9. RYAN STANCHEK	6-3	302	WEST VIRGINIA
10. *CIRON BLACK	6-5	314	LOUISIANA STATE

Guards

This position remains a total question mark aside from Oklahoma's Duke Robinson. Questionable in the sense that there are a handful of players that have the "game" to become legit factors at the next level, but whether it be injuries, inconsistency, and/or athleticism, they enter the 2008 season as riddles wrapped in question marks. Robinson is a truly gifted player capable of elevating to the next level immediately. He can be a physical player, but he too must be appreciated for his scheme comprehension.. ... The top three players on the list have the ability to be unique talents. ... The next four are big-time maulers, and the last three are capable of playing at a higher level if they raise their game in the fall. This is a solid group, but it could be an excellent group.

1. DUKE ROBINSON	6-5	330	OKLAHOMA
2. *SERGIO RENDER	6-3	315	VIRGINIA TECH
3. JEREMY PERRY	6-2	313	OREGON STATE
4. HERMAN JOHNSON	6-6	350	LOUISIANA STATE
5. MATT SLAUSON	6-4	335	NEBRASKA
6. STEVE REHRING	6-7	330	OHIO STATE
7. KRAIG URBIK	6-5	328	WISCONSIN
8. CEDRIC DOCKERY	6-4	322	TEXAS
9. ANTHONY PARKER	6-3	307	TENNESSEE
10. DALLAS REYNOLDS (T)	6-4	335	BYU

Centers

When Jeff Byers first donned the Trojans uniform, guaranteed success was attached. The comparisons were plentiful with names bandied about, including Bill Fralic. Injuries have derailed his career and tempered the enthusiastic parallels. He is still a solid player, and capable of playing any of the three interior positions. The question is whether Lady Luck will sit on his shoulder pads, providing him a chance to remain at full health for his last casting appearance for pro scouts this fall. Alex Mack is one the best center prospects this decade. He is a terrific, heady

player, and is adept at most aspects of the game. He will prove unique in the sense that he'll enter the NFL as a premium pick; he is a top-20 player. Keep an eye on Jonathan Luigs and Antoine Caldwell; both have a chance to solidify themselves as first-day picks.

1. ALEX MACK	6-4	301	CALIFORNIA
2. JONATHAN LUIGS	6-3	307	ARKANSAS
3. JEFF BYERS	6-2	285	SOUTHERN CAL
4. ANTOINE CALDWELL	6-3	288	ALABAMA
5. JON COOPER	6-2	289	OKLAHOMA
6. ERIC WOOD	6-3	303	LOUISVILLE
7. EDWIN WILLIAMS	6-2	325	MARYLAND
8. ROBBY FELIX	6-3	295	UTEP
9. A.Q. SHIPLEY	6-0	290	PENN STATE
10. DANIEL SANDERS	6-2	302	COLORADO

Defensive Ends

This position is dominated by underclassmen. In fact, there have been few positions more reliant on underclassmen for quantity and quality this decade. Senior Tyson Jackson is a monstrous talent as is fellow senior Michael Johnson; however, six of the top eight prospects are underclassmen. Furthermore, each of the six underclassmen among the top eight is legitimate first-round material. George Selvie might be the best player in South Florida history. Ole Miss' Greg Hardy is a spectacular player, who will top this list if he fine-tunes his fundamentals. ... This position possesses the best top-10 of any in this draft class. The overall depth of this class is top-drawer as well; one scout intimated that as many as 30 defensive ends could be secured by the time the 2009 draft concludes.

1. TYSON JACKSON	6-5	285	LOUISIANA STATE
2. *GEORGE SELVIE	6-3	245	SOUTH FLORIDA
3. *GREG MIDDLETON	6-3	270	INDIANA
4. MICHAEL JOHNSON	6-6	255	GEORGIA TECH
5. *MAURICE EVANS	6-2	270	PENN STATE
6. *GREG HARDY	6-5	255	MISSISSIPPI
7. *ANTONIO COLEMAN	6-2	243	AUBURN
8. *EVERETTE BROWN	6-4	248	FLORIDA STATE
9. MATT SHAUGHNESSY	6-5	245	WISCONSIN
10. ANTWAIN ROBINSON	6-2	255	ARKANSAS
11. LAWRENCE WILSON	6-5	270	OHIO STATE
12. JAMAAL WESTERMAN	6-3	255	RUTGERS
13. BRANDON SWAIM	6-4	255	WEST TEXAS STATE
14. BRIAN ORAKPO	6-3	250	TEXAS
15. MITCH KING	6-3	265	IOWA
16. *AUSTON ENGLISH	6-3	253	OKLAHOMA
17. WILLIAM VANDESTEEG	6-3	255	MINNESOTA
18. NICK REED	6-2	255	OREGON
19. *ERIC NORWOOD	6-0	265	SOUTH CAROLINA
20. KYLE MOORE	6-5	263	SOUTHERN CAL

Defensive Tackles

Fili Moala is one of the Southern Cal Trojans to rank atop defensive positions, which speaks volumes. Moala, Rey Maualaga (ILB), Brian Cushing (OLB) and Taylor Mays rank as the best of their respective positions entering the fall based on information garnered from NFL insiders, college coaches and scouts. There is a chance that all four will be picked before the 11th selection in the 2009 draft is called. Moala is a run-stuffer that seemingly flourishes in the muck. The tougher the game, the better he plays. ... Peria Jerry is a physical force capable of altering a game plan. When he is on his game, Jerry is an immovable defender capable of pushing the action backward. ... Sen'Derrick Marks has the physical attributes to top this list come April if he refines his techniques. ... Louisiana State has a bevy of tackles capable of performing at the next level. ... Expect the top seven of this cast to be depleted on the first day of the draft.

1. FILI MOALA	6-4	297	SOUTHERN CAL
2. PERIA JERRY	6-2	308	MISSISSIPPI
3. *SEN'DERRICK MARKS	6-2	285	AUBURN

PHOTO BY JOHN CORDES/ICON SMI

REY MAUALAGA

4. *AL WOODS	6-4	316	LOUISIANA STATE
5. TERRANCE TAYLOR	6-0	310	MICHIGAN
6. *DEMARCUS GRANGER	6-3	305	OKLAHOMA
7. *RICKY JEAN-FRANCOIS	6-3	281	LOUISIANA STATE
8. B.J. RAJI	6-1	335	BOSTON COLLEGE
9. VANCE WALKER	6-2	295	GEORGIA TECH
10. *GENO ATKINS	6-1	290	GEORGIA
11. JEFF OWENS	6-2	294	GEORGIA
12. GEORGE HYPOLITE	6-2	285	COLORADO
13. ZIGGY HOOD	6-4	295	MISSOURI
14. *VINCE OGHOBAASE	6-5	315	DUKE
15. DORELL SCOTT	6-3	305	CLEMSON
16. ROY MILLER	6-1	296	TEXAS
17. RON BRACE	6-2	335	BOSTON COLLEGE
18. TERRILL BYRD	6-1	285	CINCINNATI
19. DEMONTE BOLDEN	6-5	291	TENNESSEE
20. ADRIAN GRADY	6-2	295	LOUISVILLE

Inside Linebackers

This position is filled with skill, depth, and marquee players. In fact, there isn't a position on the board with better talent among its top six players. Rey Maualaga and James Laurinaitis will both receive support for the Heisman Trophy. ... Yes, the Heisman. Both receive high "Q ratings" with college football followers and NFL scouts; they'll have a chance to see each other up-close and personal. Southern Cal and Ohio State play on Sept. 13. In fact, Southern Cal and Ohio State boast the top two inside and outside linebackers available for the 2009 NFL draft heightening the matchup. ... Brandon Spikes has superstar abilities along with an attack mode that changes series. ... Stanford's Clinton Snyder is one of the best players you haven't seen play. He is a sleeper in the group with a high potential ceiling. It's likely that, minimally, four inside linebackers could be drafted within the top 15 in the first round next April.

1. REY MAUALAGA	6-2	250	SOUTHERN CAL
2. JAMES LAURINAITIS	6-2	243	OHIO STATE

3. JASPER BRINKLEY	6-1	265	SOUTH CAROLINA
4. *BRANDON SPIKES	6-2	240	FLORIDA
5. DARRY BECKWITH	6-1	235	LOUISIANA STATE
6. *CLINTON SNYDER	6-3	230	STANFORD
7. SCOTT MCKILLOP	6-2	244	PITTSBURGH
8. DAVE PHILISTIN	6-2	231	MARYLAND
9. *JOE PAWELEK	6-2	230	BAYLOR
10. WORRELL WILLIAMS	6-2	255	CALIFORNIA
11. ANTONIO APPLEBY	6-3	246	VIRGINIA
12. JAMAR CHANEY	6-1	225	MISSISSIPPI STATE
13. DANIEL HOLTZCLAW	6-0	230	EASTERN MICHIGAN
14. RONNIE PALMER	6-2	240	ARIZONA
15. BROCK CHRISTOPHER	6-1	240	MISSOURI

Outside Linebackers

While teammate Rey Maualaga and James Laurinaitis will garner the national media attention, there are several scouts that rank Brian Cushing as the best available linebacker in the 2009 draft pool. He is without weakness and is capable of dominating. ... Gerald McRath and Mark Herzlich both moved upward last year with breakout seasons. A few southern football observers claim McRath is the most underrated defender in the country. Herzlich is simply a "throwback" that plays with a nasty attitude. The depth at this position remains suspect, but the top three prospects are guaranteed to be first-year starters at the next level.

1. BRIAN CUSHING	6-3	245	SOUTHERN CAL
2. MARCUS FREEMAN	6-1	242	OHIO STATE
3. *GERALD MCRATH	6-3	215	SOUTHERN MISS
4. CLINT SINTIM	6-3	255	VIRGINIA
5. IAN CAMPBELL	6-5	245	KANSAS STATE
6. ANTHONY HEYGOOD	6-2	230	PURDUE
7. *SEAN WEATHERSPOON	6-1	230	MISSOURI
8. *MARK HERZLICH	6-4	238	BOSTON COLLEGE
9. TYRONE MCKENZIE	6-2	233	USF
10. AARON CURRY	6-2	239	WAKE FOREST
11. MAURICE CRUM	5-11	226	NOTRE DAME
12. ZACH FOLLETT	6-2	237	CALIFORNIA
13. CLAYTON MULLINS	6-1	235	MIAMI (OHIO)
14. BRIAN TOAL	6-0	236	BOSTON COLLEGE
15. *FREDDIE FAIRCHILD	6-2	225	ARKANSAS
16. LARRY ENGLISH (DE)	6-2	256	NORTHERN ILLINOIS
17. RUSSELL ALLEN	6-2	230	SAN DIEGO STATE
18. DARNELL ELLERBE	6-1	233	GEORGIA
20. FRANTZ JOSEPH	6-0	230	FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Cornerbacks

Ohio State has become a "cornerback factory" for the NFL this decade. Among those elevating to the next level over the last 10 years have been Antoine Winfield, Nate Clements and Chris Gamble. This year's top prospect, Malcolm Jenkins, certainly has the ability to develop into a premier player at the next level. ... Trevard Lindley is the best UK cornerback in memory. One school insider insists maybe the best ever. ... Florida State's Tony Carter and Patrick Robinson both have big-time upside. ... West Liberty State produces one of the elite "small-school" prospects in Darren Banks. He dominated Division II last season, creating big plays on a weekly basis. ... This cast enters the spring with a variety of players capable of providing depth, but lacks depth among instant difference-makers.

1. MALCOLM JENKINS	6-0	201	OHIO STATE
2. VICTOR HARRIS	5-11	200	VIRGINIA TECH
3. *TREVARD LINDLEY	5-11	177	KENTUCKY
4. MIKE MICKENS	5-11	165	CINCINNATI
5. KEVIN BARNES	6-1	188	MARYLAND
6. JOE BURNETT	5-11	182	UCF
7. ALPHONSO SMITH	5-9	190	WAKE FOREST
8. TONY CARTER	5-9	163	FLORIDA STATE
9. LONDEN FRYAR	5-10	185	WESTERN MICHIGAN
10. DARREN BANKS	5-11	180	WEST LIBERY STATE
11. DEANDRE WRIGHT	5-11	185	NEW MEXICO
12. DARIUS BUTLER	5-11	187	CONNECTICUT
13. CHRISTOPHER OWENS	5-10	170	SAN JOSE STATE
14. LADARIUS WEBB	5-11	207	NICHOLLS STATE
15. *PATRICK ROBINSON	5-11	184	FLORIDA STATE
16. *D.J. MOORE	5-10	178	VANDERBILT
17. ALLEN LANGFORD	5-11	198	WISCONSIN
18. JACKIE BATES	5-10	180	HAMPTON
19. MORGAN TRENT	6-0	190	MICHIGAN
20. WOPAMO OSAISAI	5-10	200	STANFORD

Free Safeties

William Moore ranks as the best Mizzou defensive back in two decades. ... If Vontae Davis continues his upward movement, he could be the most valued defensive back on the board. Davis is a versatile player capable of excelling at any of the four positions in the secondary. ... Myron Rolle is playing up to his reputation as a difference-maker. ... Derek Pegues plays his best against the best. ... Keep an eye on Trimane Goddard; he made quantum leaps last season.

1. WILLIAM MOORE	6-1	215	MISSOURI
2. *VONTAE DAVIS	5-11	185	ILLINOIS
3. *MYRON ROLLE	6-2	217	FLORIDA STATE
4. NIC HARRIS	6-3	225	OKLAHOMA
5. DEREK PEGUES	5-10	200	MISSISSIPPI STATE
6. TRIMANE GODDARD	5-11	190	NORTH CAROLINA
7. RASHAD JOHNSON	5-11	189	ALABAMA
8. CURTIS TAYLOR	6-2	205	LOUISIANA STATE
9. CHRIS CLEMONS	6-1	205	CLEMSON
10. *ANDERSON RUSSELL	5-11	188	OHIO STATE

Strong Safeties

Taylor Mays has the potential to excel at either position in centerfield. At Southern Cal, Mays mans the free safety position alongside strong safety Kevin Ellison. The duo is one of the best regardless of position in the country. Mays is a dominant force, while Ellison seemingly improves monthly. Both could be first-day selections in April. ... Kam Chancellor continues the school's lineage of superb defensive backs, maximizing size and athleticism. ... Courtney Greene ranks among the best to don the scarlet. There is solid depth in this class.

1. *TAYLOR MAYS	6-3	225	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
2. MICHAEL HAMLIN	6-2	202	CLEMSON
3. *KAM CHANCELLOR	6-3	216	VIRGINIA TECH
4. COURTNEY GREENE	6-0	206	RUTGERS
5. RESHARD LANGFORD	6-1	215	VANDERBILT
6. PATRICK CHUNG	5-11	210	OREGON
7. KEVIN ELLISON	6-0	219	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
8. JAMARIO O'NEAL	6-0	201	OHIO STATE
9. TROY NOLAN	6-2	204	ARIZONA STATE
10. CHIP VAUGHN	6-2	220	WAKE FOREST

Specialists

1. BRITTON COLQUITT (K/P)	6-2	206	TENNESSEE
2. CHRIS MILLER (P)	6-2	205	BALL STATE
3. AARON PEREZ (P)	6-4	219	UCLA
4. LOUIE SAKODA (K/P)	5-10	178	UTAH
5. SAM SWANK (PK)	6-1	205	WAKE FOREST
6. KEVIN HUBER (P)	6-1	220	CINCINNATI
7. A.J. TRAPASSO (P)	6-1	218	OHIO STATE
8. CONOR LEE (PK)	5-10	192	PITTSBURGH
9. PATRICK SHADLE (PK)	5-8	200	SYRACUSE
10. JEFF WOLFERT (K)	6-2	185	MISSOURI

AFC EAST

Everyone Still Chasing the Patriots

They're all stalking Bill Belichick and he keeps turning them back. The latest coach from Belichick's past to step in to try to wrest control of the division from the New England Patriots is Bill Parcells.

The long-ago Belichick mentor signed a cushy deal with the Miami Dolphins to overhaul the franchise's fortunes as a football czar. Parcells won't coach, but he's calling all the shots with one thing in mind — end Belichick's dominance of the division. New England has won five straight division titles.

Dolphins fans hope Parcells stays interested longer than Nick Saban. The Belichick protégé lasted two years as coach before returning to the college ranks. Eric Mangini, another Belichick protégé, enters his third season with the Jets still looking up at the Pats, like everyone else.

BUFFALO BILLS

It's amazing they were in the AFC playoff hunt until suffering three straight losses at the end. The Bills had the league's 30th-ranked offense and 31st defense. They were great on special teams, though, and should be lethal again after adding cornerback Leodis McKelvin, the best return specialist in the draft.

The Bills made a transition on offense last year by going with a rookie quarterback and running back. Trent Edwards and Marshawn Lynch should be better in their second seasons, but this team didn't do enough in the off-season to take a major step up.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

How long should it take the Dolphins to recover from a 1-15 season? Well, Bill Parcells took over a 2-14 New England team and had them in the playoffs in two years. He took over a 1-5 Jets team and put them in the playoffs in two years. As coach of the Cowboys, Parcells inherited a 5-11 team and coached them to the playoffs in one year.

Parcells is not coaching the Dolphins, but he is "buying the groceries," as he once said, and that includes picking the coaches and personnel people. His first off-season on the job netted 13 free-agent acquisitions and a draft that brought a franchise offensive tackle, a quarterback of the future and at least two defensive starters.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

For Bill Belichick, the new challenge is picking his team off the floor after it was flattened one win shy of a perfect 19-0 season. Is there a coaching manual on how to do that?

The Patriots bring back their record-shattering offense virtually intact. That is not necessarily a grand thing when it comes to their offensive line, which was beat savagely by the Giants in the Super Bowl. Somehow the smartest team in the league omitted an offensive line upgrade on its list of things to do. But they must know what they're doing by now, right?

NEW YORK JETS

How can a team commit $140 million in future contracts in free agency and not address a suspect quarterback position? The Jets stayed with the tandem of Chad Pennington and Kellen Clemens and hoped to support them with the addition of high-priced free-agent offensive linemen Alan Faneca and Damien Woody.

The Jets then poured more money into their defense by adding rush linebacker Calvin Pace and nose tackle Kris Jenkins in free agency and drafting a bookend rusher to Pace, Vernon Gholston.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Can the Patriots run the table a second year in a row and finish 16-0 in the regular season?

Why not? The luck of the pre-set league schedule gave the Patriots the easiest schedule in 2008. Their opponents had a .387 winning percentage in 2007, losing 58 more games than they won. They play only four playoff teams and have 12 games against teams with losing records last year.

2. Who will be the Dolphins starting quarterback — Josh McCown, John Beck or Chad Henne?

Bill Parcells' M.O. is to play a veteran until his team is ready to win. That probably means McCown for 2008 and Henne next year.

3. What will Jets owner Woody Johnson do if the team has another losing season?

After doling out about $140 million in new contracts, Johnson expects a winner. The Mike Tannenbaum-Eric Mangini management tandem has had seasons of 10-6 and 4-12. With the tabloid-loved Giants coming off a Super Bowl year, another losing season by the Jets could result in a shakeup.

4. What's Buffalo's best game plan?

Blocking punts, returning kickoffs and executing onside kicks. The Bills' special teams are awesome.

5. What do Tom Brady and Randy Moss do for an encore?

Twenty-three of Brady's NFL record 50 touchdown passes went to Moss. Exceeding those numbers won't mean a thing to either. The only encore is a Super Bowl triumph.

— Tony Grossi

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2007 PRESEASON

Steelers	(-3)	Eagles	27-13	W
Colts	(-6½)	Lions	37-10	W
Cards/Chargers		Over 40½	31/33	W
Texans	(+3)	Cowboys	28-16	W
Raiders	(-1)	Rams	20-10	W
Jaguars	(-2½)	Packers	21-13	W
Ravens	(-3)	Giants	12-13	L
Steelers	(-2)	Redskins	12-10	P
Packers	(-2½)	Seahawks	48-13	W
Saints	(+3)	Bengals	27-19	W
Cowboys/Broncos		Over 35½	31/20	W
Bills	(-3)	Falcons	10-13	L
Chiefs	(-3)	Dolphins	10-11	L
Broncos	(+3)	49'ers	17-13	W
Jaguars/Dolphins		Over 34	17/18	W
Texans	(PK)	Bears	19-20	L
Bucs	(-2½)	Patriots	13-10	W
Lions	(-2½)	Bengals	27-26	L
Steelers	(-3)	Saints	20-7	W
Steelers/Saints		(Under 34)	20/7	W

14-5 (73.7%)

WEEK 1

Miami-O	(+6)	Ball St	14-13	W
Utah St	(+6 ½)	UNLV	16-23	L
Oregon	(-16)	Houston	48-27	W
Missouri	(-4 ½)	Illinois	40-34	W
TCU	(-21)	Baylor	27-0	W
Wake For	(+6)	Boston Coll	28-38	L
Texas Tech/SMU		Under 60	49/9	W
SMU	(+8 ½)	Texas Tech	9-49	L

5 WINS 3 LOSSES

WEEK 2

Saints	(+6)	Colts	10-41	L
Miami-O	(+8)	Minn	35-41	W
Okla	(-10½)	Miami-Fl	51-13	W
Michigan	(-8)	Oregon	7-39	L
Air Force	(+7 ½)	Utah	20-12	W
Alabama	(-3 ½)	Vandy	24-10	W
Texans	(-3)	Chiefs	20-3	W
Redskins	(-3)	Dolphins	16-13	P
Chargers	(-6 ½)	Bears	14-3	W
49'ers	(-3)	Cards	20-17	P

6 WINS 2 LOSSES

WEEK 3

Indiana	(-13½)	Akron	41-24	W
Utah	(+15½)	UCLA	44-6	W
N Mex	(+10)	Arizona	29-27	W
UNLV	(+17)	Hawaii	17-49	L
Houston	(-15)	Tulane	34-10	W
Cards	(+2½)	Seahawks	23-20	W
Dolphins	(+3½)	Cowboys	20-37	L
Bears	(-12)	Chiefs	20-10	L
Redskins	(+7)	Eagles	20-12	W

6 WINS 3 LOSSES

WEEK 4

Colorado	(-13)	Miami-O	42-0	W
BYU	(-11½)	Air Force	31-6	W
Michigan	(+2½)	Penn State	14-9	W
Arkansas	(-7)	Kentucky	29-42	L
So Fla	(-12½)	N Carolina	37-10	W
Toledo	(+3½)	Iowa State	36-35	W
Jets	(-3)	Dolphins	31-28	P
Chiefs	(-3)	Vikings	13-10	P
Saints	(-4)	Titans	14-31	L

5 WINS 2 LOSSES

Last year Nick Bogdanovich hit 14-5 (73.7%) in the pre-season. His August-September total was 36-15-4 for 70.6%! (21 net wins)

"I GUARANTEE YOU A REPEAT THIS YEAR."

NICK BOGDANOVICH

Who is Nick Bogdanovich?

Walk into any sports book in the world – Vegas, off shores, Hong Kong, UK - and **Nick Bogdanovich is The Man.** For years he ran the biggest, baddest book in Vegas – **Binion's Horseshoe** - where he put up his own betting lines and dared the biggest high rollers to beat him and they couldn't do it. ***In '05, Nick left the casinos and came over to our side of the counter and he has been unstoppable ever since.*** This past January he beat out 31 other invitees to take the **$160,000 winner-take-all prize in the Money Talks Football Tournament at Leroy's.** It figures. *Who would know better where the number should be, which lines are off, how far, what the sharps are thinking and where the biggest, juiciest overlays are?*

Not that the sports books have given up wooing him back. Latest word is that Nick has taken over the reins at Cal Neva sports book ***"But that will not affect what we do. If we give out Dallas (-5) and that's the right number it doesn't matter who puts up what. The right number wins!"***

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Lem Banker, called by the *Wall Street Journal* ***"the top football bettor in the business."***

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Las Vegas Sun

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Jimmy Vaccaro,
Dean of Vegas Linesmakers

NICKBOGDANOVICH 3540 W. Sahara Avenue #732 Las Vegas, NV 89102-5816

BUFFALO BILLS

2007 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Ralph Wilson Stadium, 73,967, AstroPlay | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

AFC EAST | www.buffalobills.com

AT A GLANCE

One Bills Drive
Orchard Park, NY 14127
(716) 648-1800

TRAINING CAMP:
St. John Fisher College; Rochester, NY

COACH:
Dick Jauron, 3rd year with Bills (14-18), 8th year as NFL head coach (50-68)

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:
Russ Brandon

VICE PRESIDENT COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Tom Modrak

VICE PRESIDENT PRO PERSONNEL:
John Guy

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Turk Schonert	Offensive coordinator	13	6
Alex Van Pelt	Quarterbacks	3	3
Sean Kugler	Offensive line	7	2
Ray Brown	Asst. line	1	1
Eric Studesville	@Running backs	12	5
Tyke Tolbert	Receivers	6	5
Charlie Coiner	Tight ends	8	3
Nathaniel Hackett	Off. quality control	3	1
Perry Fewell	Defensive coordinator	11	3
Bill Kollar	Defensive line	20	3
Matt Sheldon	Linebackers	8	3
George Catavolos	Secondary	24	3
Adrian White	Def. quality control	1	1
Chuck Lester	Asst. to head coach	22	22
Bobby April	*Special teams	17	5
DeMontie Cross	Def. Special teams asst.	3	3
John Allaire	Strength & Cond.	7	7

@Running game coordinator
*Assistant head coach

Pieces in Place to End Eight-Year Playoff Drought

An overhauled defense gives the Buffalo Bills hope that they can end their franchise-record eight-year playoff drought in 2008.

The Bills' defense should be bolstered by seven essentially new contributors.

Defensive tackle Marcus Stroud was acquired in a trade with Jacksonville. Linebacker Kawika Mitchell and defensive tackle Spencer Johnson were signed in free agency. Cornerback Leodis McKelvin and defensive end Chris Ellis were added in the draft. And the Bills get two more reinforcements who missed virtually all of last season due to injury — linebacker Paul Posluszny and free safety Ko Simpson.

So the Bills expect dramatic improvement from a unit that ranked 31st in the NFL last season.

If starting quarterback Trent Edwards can take a step forward in his second season, the Bills just might make a strong run at a wild-card berth. Buffalo has not made the playoffs since 1999, the longest absence of any team in the AFC.

COACHING

The big change for the Bills is at offensive coordinator, where Turk Schonert takes over for Steve Fairchild, who left to become head coach at Colorado State. Schonert offers continuity by keeping the same terminology, but he will carve his own niche. He will put more emphasis on short drops and quick throws. Schonert vows to put more of a priority on getting the ball to Lee Evans and to be less conservative than last season. Schonert will add a fullback to the attack and also will give Edwards more latitude in calling audibles. Defensive coordinator Perry Fewell had to use plenty of zone dogs to manufacture a pass rush last year. The team hopes he will do less of that due to a better four-man rush. Coach Dick Jauron did well to go 7-9 last season despite having 17 players on injured reserve.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Trent Edwards opened eyes in the 2007 preseason when he completed 75 percent of his passes, albeit against backup competition. Edwards then burst onto the scene in Week 3 by hitting 22 of 28 passes for 234 yards in a win over the Jets.

Edwards, a third-round pick, was impressive by rookie standards in 2007. He took the starting job away from J.P. Losman and finished 5-4 as a starter. Edwards is accurate and decisive in the pocket. He has a good arm, although it's not as strong as Losman's. The question remains whether Edwards has the play-making ability to become a big success. The Bills are hoping a greater knowledge of the game will help Edwards improve in third-down and red-zone situations, where Buffalo has struggled all decade. Losman, who enters the last year of his contract, provides insurance behind Edwards.

RATING: 6.5

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
DT Marcus Stroud

Stroud is an elite defensive tackle when fully healthy. He underwent microfracture surgery on his ankle early in 2007. The Bills are banking on the ankle returning to 100 percent health.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
TE Courtney Anderson, CB Will James, DT Spencer Johnson, LB Kawika Mitchell

KEY LOSS:
TE Michael Gaines (15/14)*
The Bills had no prominent free-agent departures. But Gaines caught 25 passes. A young cast of prospects has been brought in to bolster the depth at tight end behind starter Robert Royal.

OTHER LOSSES:
WR Sam Aiken (12/0), CB Jerametrius Butler (7/1), LB Mario Haggan (16/0), DE Anthony Hargrove (12/0), LB Leon Joe (8/0), S Jim Leonhard (13/6), FB/TE Ryan Neufeld (9/1), WR Peerless Price (4/4), LB Josh Stamer (16/0), RB Anthony Thomas (10/2), CB Kiwaukee Thomas (9/3), DT Larry Tripplett (16/16), DE Al Wallace (0/0), CB Jason Webster (1/1), RB Shaud Williams (0/0), LB Coy Wire (7/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

RUNNING BACKS

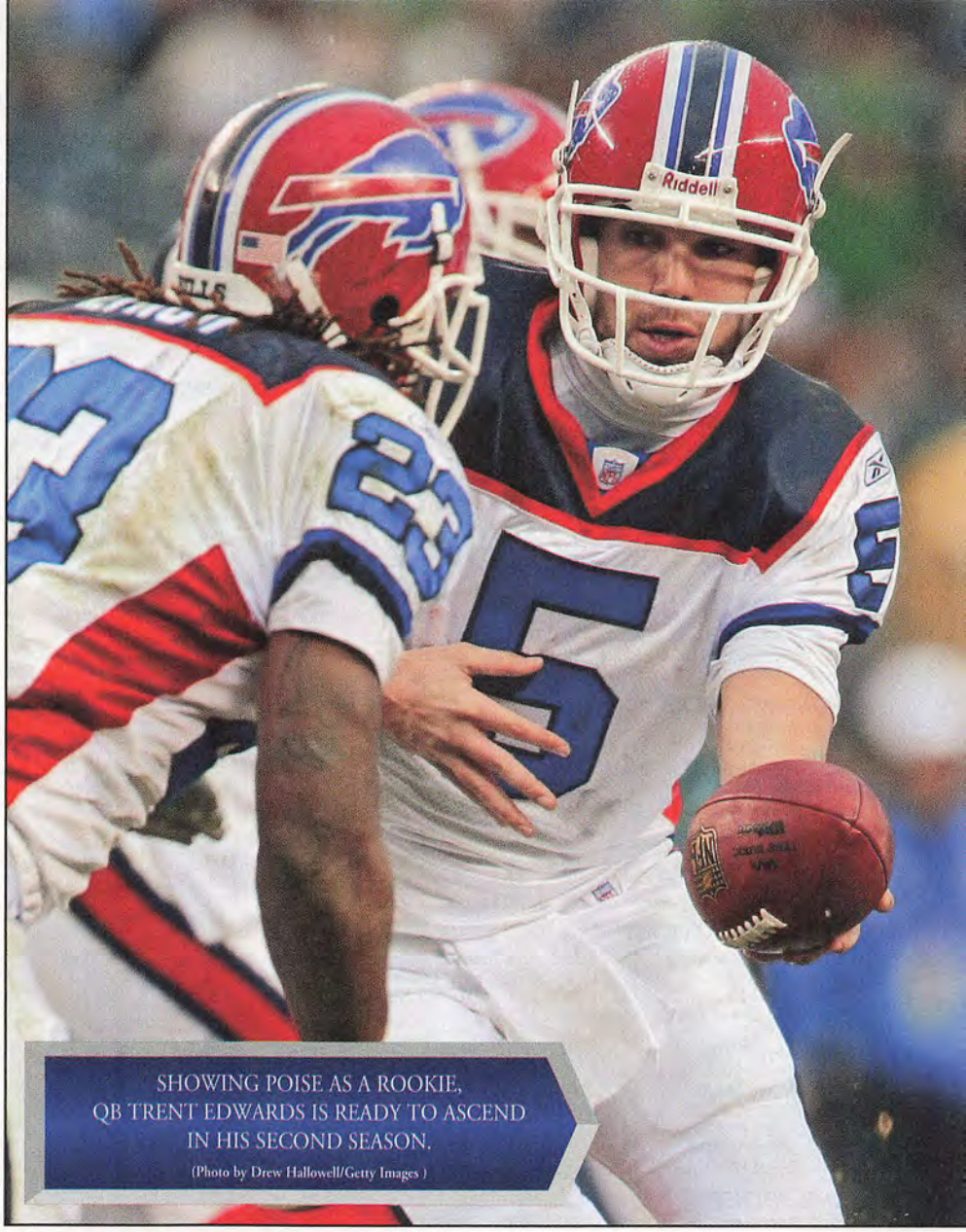
Marshawn Lynch was everything he was advertised to be as a rookie. He rushed for 1,115 yards and scored seven touchdowns despite missing three games due to an ankle injury. Lynch runs with a vengeance. He hits the hole hard, bulls through arm tackles and has speed to turn the corner. He can catch the ball out of the backfield. He can break a big one, too. He had two 56-yard runs. With a little more support from the passing game, Lynch could give the Bills an elite all-purpose threat. The Bills are a power running team and will employ a fullback this seasons. Ex-Jet Darian Barnes is the favorite to win that duty. The Bills have some promising depth, too. Fred Jackson, a former Division III standout, averaged 97 combined yards a game in a four-game late-season stretch. Third stringer Dwayne Wright shows promise.

RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

The Bills had the smallest receiving corps in the NFL last season, so the off-season priority was to add size. Enter Indiana's James Hardy, a 6-6, 217-pounder. He is a big key to the attack, because the Bills need someone on the outside to take attention away from Lee Evans. They also need help in the red zone, where they ranked 30th. Evans saw his catch total drop from 82 to 55 in 2007, the sixth fewest among No. 1 wideouts in the league. Evans can get deep, if he has help. If Hardy is even average on the outside, that should help the Bills' slot receivers, Josh Reed and Roscoe Parrish. They could form a solid four-receiver set. The Bills need more from the tight-end spot. They drafted a good pass-catcher in fourth-rounder Derek Fine, but he doesn't look like a game-breaker. Robert Royal had the fifth fewest catches among starting tight ends last year. The team hopes a bit better health allows him to produce more.

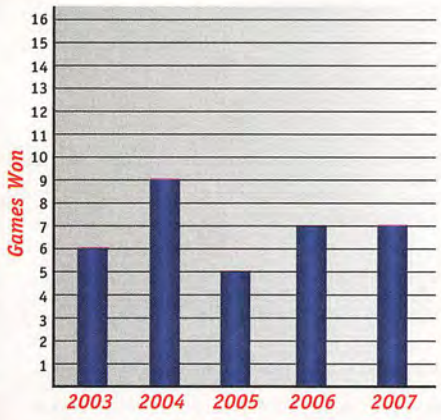
RATING: 7



SHOWING POISE AS A ROOKIE, QB TRENT EDWARDS IS READY TO ASCEND IN HIS SECOND SEASON.

(Photo by Drew Hallowell/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Bills got much better production out of the offensive line in 2007, even though it did not result in more yards or points. The Bills improved from 27th to 15th in rushing yards in 2007 and moved up from 30th to 13th in pass protection (sacks allowed per pass attempt). Left tackle Jason Peters made his first Pro Bowl and is the cornerstone of the line. Left guard Derrick Dockery was a solid performer, helping firm up the interior of the line. There were plenty of questions about right tackle Langston Walker, acquired from Oakland, but he allowed just one sack and moved well outside. The Bills think right guard Brad Butler, a former fifth-round pick with a big frame, has a bright future after winning the job in his second season. Melvin Fowler is not big, but brings intelligence and mobility to the center spot. The Bills have depth in the interior. Fourth-year man Kirk Chambers is the No. 3 tackle.

RATING: 7.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

After watching the run defense rank among the bottom eight in the league for a third straight year, the Bills took action in the off-season. Enter Stroud, a former Pro Bowler. An ankle injury suffered in 2006 has hindered him. If he can rebound, he instantly makes the Bills' defense look strong. Stroud will team with former first-round pick John McCargo in the middle. Johnson, signed from Minnesota, and incumbent Kyle Williams give the Bills quality depth in the middle.

The Bills were hurt by a lack of depth at end last year. Aaron Schobel had 6.5 sacks, but made the Pro Bowl anyway. Chris Kelsay had just 2.5 sacks. No. 3 end Ryan Denney is back from a foot injury that ruined his entire season. He and Ellis, a third-round pick from Virginia Tech, should allow the Bills to rotate ends more effectively. If the Bills are tougher up the middle, then the ends should be more effective rushing the passer.

RATING: 7.5

Bills Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	Anderson, Courtney (TE)	6-6	270	5	San Jose State	4/0	UFA,ATL 08	D7 OAK 04	Big body who started 28 games for Raiders and will have shot to make team.
83	**Evans, Lee**	**5-10**	**197**	**5**	**Wisconsin**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 BUFF 04**	**Hoping that more help on other side will boost his catch totals.**
86	Fine, Derek (TE)	6-3	250	R	Kansas	0/0	D4 08	D4 BUFF 08	Drafted by Bills because he can both catch and block. He will play.
81	**Hardy, James**	**6-5**	**221**	**R**	**Indiana**	**0/0**	**D2 08**	**D2 BUFF 08**	**Giant 6-5 target could give Bills a needed boost in the red zone.**
17	Jenkins, Justin	6-0	207	3	Mississippi State	11/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 04	Young guy with decent speed will vie for final receiver spot on roster.
13	Johnson, Steve	6-3	198	R	Kentucky	0/0	D7 08	D7 BUFF 08	Productive guy with size has fair shot to make team.
48	Johnson, Teyo (TE)	6-6	260	4	Stanford	0/0	FA 08	D2 OAK 03	Former second-round pick eyes comeback after two idle seasons.
49	Massaquoi, Tim (TE)	6-5	255	3	Michigan	4/0	FA 07	D7 TB 06	Physical tight end counting on blocking skills to earn roster spot.
19	Mayle, Scott	6-1	175	1	Ohio University	0/0	FA 07	CFA BUFF 07	Sure-handed prospect spent last season on practice squad.
11	Parrish, Roscoe	5-9	171	4	Miami	16/3	D2 05	D2 BUFF 05	Outstanding punt returner has breakaway ability from slot.
82	Reed, Josh	5-10	210	7	Louisiana State	15/9	D2 02	D2 BUFF 02	Sure-handed slot man who has solid run-after-catch ability.
84	**Royal, Robert (TE)**	**6-4**	**255**	**7**	**Louisiana State**	**16/15**	**UFA,WSH 06**	**D5 WSH 02**	**Can he re-establish himself as starter after subpar 2007?**
80	*Schouman, Derek (TE)	6-2	223	2	Boise State	3/1	D7 07	D7 BUFF 07	Has both H-back and tight end skills. Aims for backup job again.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
77	Bell, Demetrius (T)	6-5	303	R	Northwestern State	0/0	D7 08	D7 BUFF 08	A long-range project, but has intriguing size, skills.
60	**Butler, Brad (G)**	**6-7**	**315**	**3**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D5 06**	**D5 BUFF 06**	**Big-bodied guard has smarts to have long career in NFL.**
73	Chambers, Kirk (T)	6-7	315	4	Stanford	16/1	FA 07	D6 CLV 04	No. 3 tackle who did OK in a relief stint for Peters last year.
66	**Dockery, Derrick (G)**	**6-6**	**330**	**6**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**UFA,WSH 07**	**D3 WSH 03**	**Big free-agent signee of 2006 shored up interior of line.**
79	Estes, Patrick (T)	6-7	310	4	Virginia	1/0	W,SF 07	D7 SF 05	Signed late last season, will vie for backup tackle spot on roster.
67	**Fowler, Melvin (C)**	**6-3**	**310**	**7**	**Maryland**	**16/16**	**UFA,MINN 06**	**D3 CLV 02**	**Cerebral guard brings experience to line calls in the middle.**
63	Gaddis, Christian (C)	6-1	300	2	Villanova	1/0	FA 07	CFA BUFF 07	Reserve prospect spent seven games on active roster last year.
70	*Murphy, Matt (T)	6-5	277	6	Maryland	2/0	FA 06	D7 DET 02	Former tight end bidding to carve NFL niche as a tackle.
71	**Peters, Jason (T)**	**6-4**	**340**	**5**	**Arkansas**	**15/15**	**FA 04**	**CFA BUFF 04**	**Elite left tackle who made first Pro Bowl last season.**
75	Preston, Duke (G)	6-5	326	4	Illinois	13/0	D4 05	D4 BUFF 05	Can play both center and guard; faces battle to make team.
68	**Walker, Langston (T)**	**6-8**	**366**	**7**	**California**	**16/16**	**UFA,OAK 07**	**D2 OAK 02**	**Massive man shored up right tackle spot in first year with Bills.**
65	*Whittle, Jason (C)	6-4	297	11	SW Missouri State	3/0	UFA,MINN 07	CFA NYG 98	Versatile veteran aims to rebound from injury in 2007.
RUNNING BACKS									
41	**Barnes, Darian (FB)**	**6-2**	**240**	**7**	**Hampton**	**5/3**	**FA 08**	**CFA NYG 02**	**Former Jet is favorite to win fullback spot.**
22	Jackson, Fred	6-1	215	2	Coe	8/1	FA 07	FA BUFF 06	Surprise player from last season is a capable backup.
23	**Lynch, Marshawn**	**5-11**	**215**	**2**	**California**	**13/13**	**D1 07**	**D1 BUFF 07**	**Powerful runner could hit 1,500-yard mark this year.**
25	Omon, Xavier	5-11	220	R	Northwest Missouri State	0/0	D6 08	D6 BUFF 08	Big back from Division II ranks makes big jump to NFL.
31	Wright, Dwayne	5-11	228	2	Fresno State	15/0	D4 07	D4 BUFF 07	Capable runner aims to contribute after watching as rookie.
QUARTERBACKS									
5	**Edwards, Trent**	**6-4**	**231**	**2**	**Stanford**	**10/9**	**D3 07**	**D3 BUFF 07**	**Should be a 63-percent completion passer in second season.**
10	Hamdan, Gibran	6-4	220	2	Indiana	0/0	FA 07	D7 WSH 03	Gets opportunity to spend full season as No. 3 on roster.
7	Losman, J.P.	6-2	212	5	Tulane	8/7	D1 04	D1 BUFF 04	Aims to produce in relief to boost his free agent stock.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
96	*Bryan, Copeland (E)	6-4	253	2	Arizona	2/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 06	Needs to show something in preseason to impress scouts.
92	*Denney, Ryan (E)	6-7	264	6	Brigham Young	7/2	D2 02	D2 BUFF 02	Broken foot basically foiled his entire season in 2007.
93	Ellis, Chris (E)	6-4	267	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D3 08	D3 BUFF 08	Bills hope he can aid rush as fifth defensive end.
98	Jefferson, Jason (T)	6-1	295	3	Wisconsin	11/0	FA 05	D6 NO 05	Made team last year due to versatility inside and outside.
91	Johnson, Spencer (T)	6-3	286	4	Auburn	16/0	UFA,MINN 08	CFA MINN 04	Being counted on to log significant minutes as backup.
90	**Kelsay, Chris (E)**	**6-4**	**261**	**5**	**Nebraska**	**14/14**	**D2 03**	**D2 BUFF 03**	**This is big year for him to show he can bring rush heat.**
74	Mace, Corey (E)	6-3	287	1	Wyoming	0/0	FA 07	CFA BUFF 07	Has shot at practice squad if he can impress in camp.
97	**McCargo, John (T)**	**6-2**	**307**	**2**	**North Carolina State**	**16/0**	**D1 06**	**D1 BUFF 06**	**Hopes are high after he showed progress in second year.**
76	Nua, Shaun (E)	6-5	280	2	Brigham Young	0/0	FA 08	D7 PITT 05	Brings ideal frame and has shot to make practice squad.
94	**Schobel, Aaron (E)**	**6-4**	**243**	**7**	**Texas Christian**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 BUFF 01**	**Sack total should rise with improved run defense.**
99	***Stroud, Marcus (T)**	**6-6**	**310**	**8**	**Georgia**	**9/9**	**T,JAX 08**	**D1 JAX 01**	**A lot is riding on his ankle's return to full health.**
95	Williams, Kyle (T)	6-1	306	2	Louisiana State	16/16	D5 06	D5 BUFF 06	High-motor player fills solid backup role.
LINEBACKERS									
50	Bowen, Alvin (O)	6-1	223	R	Iowa State	0/0	D5 08	D5 BUFF 08	Athletic outside linebacker drafted to help special teams.
54	Costanzo, Blake (O)	6-2	235	1	Lafayette	3/0	FA 07	CFA NYJ 06	Former Jet showed some ability on special teams.
55	**Crowell, Angelo (O)**	**6-1**	**246**	**6**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D3 03**	**D3 BUFF 03**	**Aiming for big tackle season in last year of contract.**
52	DiGiorgio, John (M)	6-2	229	3	Saginaw Valley State	16/14	CFA 06	CFA BUFF 06	Surprise from last season backs up Posluszny.
56	Ellison, Keith (O)	6-0	229	3	Oregon State	12/9	D6 06	D6 BUFF 06	Two-year starter moves to backup role behind Mitchell.
59	**Mitchell, Kawika (O)**	**6-1**	**253**	**6**	**USF**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYG 08**	**D2 KC 03**	**Signed because Bills needed to get bigger in front seven.**
51	***Posluszny, Paul (M)**	**6-1**	**238**	**2**	**Penn State**	**3/3**	**D2 07**	**D2 BUFF 07**	**Could make significant impact as playmaker in middle.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
27	Corner, Reggie (CB)	5-9	180	R	Akron	0/0	D4 08	D4 BUFF 08	Sleeper draft pick will vie for nickel corner job.
38	Cox, Kennard (CB)	6-1	195	R	Pittsburgh	0/0	D7 08	D7 BUFF 08	Has size to stick as practice-squad player.
35	Fox, Dustin (CB)	5-11	200	3	Ohio State	6/0	FA 07	D3 MINN 05	Hopes to impress in camp after spending time on the practice squad.
33	**Greer, Jabari (CB)**	**5-11**	**180**	**5**	**Tennessee**	**16/13**	**CFA 04**	**CFA BUFF 04**	**Career got big lift with decent season as starter in 2007.**
21	James, William (CB)	6-0	200	8	Western Illinois	14/6	UFA,PHA 08	D3 NYG 01	Ex-Giant and Eagle may cover slot receiver in nickel.
24	**McGee, Terrence (CB/KR)**	**5-9**	**198**	**6**	**Northwestern State**	**15/15**	**D4 03**	**D4 BUFF 03**	**Tough competitor is a quality NFL player.**
28	McKelvin, Leodis (CB)	5-10	192	R	Troy	0/0	D1 08	D1 BUFF 08	Top corner in draft will push Greer for starting job.
43	Scott, Bryan (S)	6-1	219	6	Penn State	15/2	FA 07	D2 ATL 03	Offers much-needed experience as backup safety.
30	***Simpson, Ko (S)**	**6-1**	**202**	**3**	**South Carolina**	**1/1**	**D4 06**	**D4 BUFF 06**	**Rangy free safety must bounce back from broken ankle.**
29	Wendling, John (S)	6-1	222	2	Wyoming	14/0	D6 07	D6 BUFF 07	Good athlete faces uphill battle for roster spot.
20	**Whitner, Donte' (S)**	**5-10**	**208**	**3**	**Ohio State**	**15/15**	**D1 06**	**D1 BUFF 06**	**Bills looking for playmaking season from talented safety.**
37	*Wilson, George (S)	6-0	212	3	Arkansas	12/9	FA 05	CFA DET 04	Made tough transition from receiver to safety last year.
26	Youboty, Ashton (CB)	5-11	189	3	Ohio State	11/3	D3 06	D3 BUFF 06	Needs big preseason to avoid being odd man out.
SPECIALISTS									
9	Lindell, Rian (K)	6-3	233	9	Washington State	16/0	RFA,SEA 03	CFA DALL 00	Strong-legged kicker has been reliable scorer for Bills.
8	Moorman, Brian (P)	6-0	172	8	Pittsburg State	16/0	FA 01	CFA SEA 99	Perennial Pro Bowl candidate with live kicking leg.
72	Neill, Ryan (LS)	6-3	253	2	Rutgers	16/0	FA 07	CFA BUFF 06	Established himself as a capable long snapper last year.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; FA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Felton Huggins (1, Southeast Louisiana), Jason Jones (Arkansas-Pine Bluff); OT Nevin McCaskill (1, Hampton); OG Robert Felton (Arkansas); RB Bruce Hall (Mississippi); FBs Jonathan Evans (1, Baylor), Michael Viti (Army); QBs Matt Baker (1, North Carolina), Luke Drone (Illinois State); DT Teraz McCray (Miami); LBs Jon Banks (Iowa State), Marcus Buggs (Vanderbilt); S Jon Corto (1, Sacred Heart); PK D.J Fitzpatrick (1, Notre Dame).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Third-down offense. The Bills were 30th in the NFL in 2007 and 31st in 2006. New coordinator Turk Schonert must find a way to move the chains better. Being able to throw the ball consistently would be a start.
2. Production from James Hardy. It's unrealistic to think the rookie will be great right away. But the Bills probably need at least 35 catches and five touchdowns from him for the offense to make a big step up.
3. More sacks. The Bills need more takedowns from the defensive line. Aaron Schobel, Chris Kelsay and Ryan Denney produced 10 sacks last year. That number needs to at least double.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Paul Posluszny

The Bills' defense is counting on a bonus, high second-round draft choice in 2008.

He is Paul Posluszny, the 34th overall pick of the 2007 draft who missed virtually all of his rookie season after he suffered a broken arm in the third game of the year.

Posluszny is an impressive physical specimen, a 238-pounder with a huge upper body and the speed to make plays sideline to sideline. His presence, the Bills hope, will help a defense that has struggled to stop the run the past three seasons.

"I know mentally I'll be smarter than a rookie once we get back out there," said Posluszny, the former Penn State All-American. "Hopefully, I won't play like a rookie. I'll have a little bit more experience. I obviously would have liked to gotten more last year, but I think I'll be much better off this year."

Posluszny's job should be a bit easier because of improved talent in front of him. Defensive tackles Marcus Stroud and Spencer Johnson give the Bills much-needed beef on the defensive line.

"We've got great playmakers now," Posluszny said. "Anytime you can get great guys like that up front, especially for the linebacking corps, it's great news."

LINEBACKERS

The starters are looking much more stout this year. Posluszny, a 6-1, 238-pounder, has impressive size, mobility and upper-body strength. His rookie year ended after just two games due to a broken arm. Posluszny was a high second-round draft choice who should be a force at middle linebacker. Mitchell, who excelled for the Super Bowl champs, makes the Bills bigger at weak-side linebacker. He's a 253 pounder, and he bumps 228-pound Keith Ellison to a backup role. On the strong side is Angelo Crowell, who has been a solid starter the past three seasons. John DiGiorgio backs up Posluszny. Rookie fifth-round pick Alvin Bowen is similar to Ellison — undersized but quick.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

The Bills gave up 94 points in two games against New England last season. They think the combination of a better pass rush and a deeper secondary will prevent that kind of embarrassment. McKelvin, the 11th overall pick, filled a need for a star talent given the fact Nate Clements left after the 2006 season. McKelvin was the top-rated corner in the draft. Jabari Greer is the incumbent who will keep the starting spot warm until McKelvin is ready. Terrence McGee is a tough, solid player at the other corner. The Bills helped their depth at corner by signing veteran Will James, a former No. 1 pick who is hoping to rebound from injury. Then they drafted Akron's Reggie Corner in the fourth round. He may bump incumbent backup Ashton Youboty off the roster. At strong safety, Donte Whitner has given the Bills two solid seasons. He's versatile, and he should make some more big plays if the Bills' run defense improves as expected. Simpson comes back from a broken ankle suffered in last year's opener. He's rangy, but must prove he can be a play-making starter.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Brian Moorman and kicker Rian Lindell give the Bills an outstanding tandem in the kicking game. The Bills are great on returns too, with McGee on kickoffs and Parrish on punts. McKelvin, the top return prospect in the draft, makes them even deeper. Ryan Neill is the long snapper. Special teams coach Bobby April must replace a bunch of core special teamers whose contracts ran out.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The Bills have an easier schedule than last season, and they only have to make one trip out west (to Arizona). This is the year for them to make a playoff run.

RATING: Plus 2

—Mark Gaughan

2007 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 9	DENVER	14-15
Sep. 16	at Pittsburgh	3-26
Sep. 23	at New England	7-38
Sep. 30	N.Y. JETS	17-14
Oct. 8	DALLAS (Mon.)	24-25
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	BALTIMORE	19-14
Oct. 28	at N.Y. Jets	13- 3
Nov. 4	CINCINNATI	33-21
Nov. 11	at Miami	13-10
Nov. 18	NEW ENGLAND	10-56
Nov. 25	at Jacksonville	14-36
Dec. 2	at Washington	17-16
Dec. 9	MIAMI	38-17
Dec. 16	at Cleveland	0- 8
Dec. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	21-38
Dec. 30	at Philadelphia	9-17

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at Washington (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 14	PITTSBURGH (Toronto) (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 24	at Indianapolis	8:00
Aug. 28	DETROIT (Thu.)	6:30
Sep. 7	SEATTLE	1:00
Sep. 14	at Jacksonville	1:00
Sep. 21	OAKLAND	1:00
Sep. 28	at St. Louis	3:05
Oct. 5	at Arizona	1:15
Oct. 12	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 19	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Oct. 26	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 2	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Nov. 9	at New England	1:00
Nov. 17	CLEVELAND (Mon.)	8:30
Nov. 23	at Kansas City	12:00
Nov. 30	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec. 7	Miami (Toronto)	4:05
Dec. 14	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Dec. 21	at Denver	2:05
Dec. 28	NEW ENGLAND	1:00

MIAMI DOLPHINS

2007 RECORD: 1-15 | STADIUM: Dolphins Stadium, 75,192, Grass PAT | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

AFC EAST | www.miamidolphins.com

AT A GLANCE

7500 SW 30th Street
Davie, FL 33314
(954) 452-7000

TRAINING CAMP:
Dolphins Complex; Davie, FL

COACH:
Tony Sparano, 1st year with Dolphins and as NFL head coach

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Bill Parcells

GENERAL MANAGER:
Jeff Ireland

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL: Brian Gaine

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL: Dwayne Joseph

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Chris Grier

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Dan Henning	Offensive coordinator	29	1
David Lee	Quarterbacks	5	1
Mike Maser	Offensive line	14	1
Karl Dorrell	Receivers	4	1
James Saxon	Running backs	9	1
George DeLeone	Tight ends	2	1
Steve Bush	Off. quality control	1	1
Paul Pasqualoni	Defensive coordinator	4	1
Kacy Rodgers	Defensive line	6	1
George Edwards	Inside linebackers	11	4
Jim Reid	Outside linebackers	1	1
Todd Bowles	*Secondary	9	1
David Corrao	Def. quality control	1	1
John Bonamego	Special teams coordinator	10	1
Steve Hoffman	Kicking	19	2
Evan Marcus	Strength & Cond.	5	1
Dave Puloka	Strength & Cond.	2	1

*Assistant head coach

Tuna Goes Fishing to Improve Dolphins

Long-time Dolphins owner H. Wayne Huizenga sold half the team, but not before taking one last gasp to returning this once proud organization to its winning ways by hiring the franchise fixer — Bill Parcells.

The aging Tuna won't coach anymore, but he'll buy the groceries and call most of the shots behind the scenes for a while until his restructured staff can fly without his help. He raided Jerry Jones' coaching staff and roster in Dallas for a jump-start. He spent some of Huizenga's $40 million in salary cap dollars on free agents as he overhauled half the roster of a 1-15 team in the hopes of ending the Dolphins' six-year playoff drought.

COACHING

Rookie head coach Tony Sparano is a Parcells disciple from Dallas who speaks the same language: Toughness, discipline, no-nonsense and a 24-7 passion for the game. He brought in pal Dan Henning to run an offense that will feature power running and play-action passing. Remember Henning took over a 1-15 Panthers' offense and within two years was in the Super Bowl. Former Cowboys linebackers/tight ends coach and Syracuse head coach Paul Pasqualoni will run the 3-4 defense. The Cowboys were ranked in the top 10 against the run the last two seasons that Pasqualoni coached the linebackers. Secondary coach Todd Bowles is the assistant head coach. While at Dallas last year, three of his four defensive backs went to the Pro Bowl, and over the last three years, they combined for 52 interceptions, compared to the Dolphins' 36.

George Edwards remains as linebackers coach and Steve Hoffman continues to work with the kickers. Quarterback coach David Lee was instrumental in grooming Cowboys Pro Bowl quarterback Tony Romo. Former UCLA coach Karl Dorrell takes over the receivers, a role he had for three seasons with the Broncos where he directed Rod Smith and Ed McCaffrey to 100-reception seasons. Former Dolphins running back James Saxon takes over the tailbacks, and he didn't fare too poorly in Kansas City where he coached Priest Holmes and Larry Johnson to 1,000-yard seasons on a regular basis. John Bonamego will handle special teams, a role he had with the Saints, Packers and Jaguars, where all were ranked in the top 10.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

The trio of John Beck, rookie Chad Henne and Josh McCown have a clean slate and plenty to prove. This will be an open competition with Beck given the job to lose. An improving offensive line and decent ground game should provide the quarterbacks with time to throw, but the receiving

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
T Jake Long

Photo by: Tomasso DeRossa

Rookie left tackle Jake Long is expected to anchor a revamped offensive line, protect an inexperienced quarterback and pave the way for two tailbacks coming back from serious injuries. Lucky, he has the massive 6-7 shoulders to handle it.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Charlie Anderson, LB Akin Ayodele, S Chris Crocker, S Keith Davis, TE Anthony Fasano, FB Boomer Grigsby, NT Jason Ferguson, CB Nate Jones, QB Josh McCown, WR Tab Perry, K Dave Rayner, TE Sean Ryan, OG Justin Smiley, DT Randy Starks, LB Reggie Torbor, WR Ernest Wilford

KEY LOSS:
Zach Thomas (5/5)*
Not only did the seven-time Pro Bowl middle linebacker lead the team in tackles in 10 of his 12 years, but he also led them spiritually on and off the field. He will be missed.

OTHER LOSSES:
RB Lorenzo Booker (7/1), WR Marty Booker (15/15), RB Jesse Chatman (14/6), RB Samkon Gado (5/2), OG Rex Hadnot (16/16), QB Cleo Lemon (9/7), OG Chris Liwienski (16/14), LB Derrick Pope (16/9), OT Mike Rosenthal (0/0), S Lance Schulters (7/4), OT L.J. Shelton (16/16), LB Donnie Spragan (16/5), S Travares Tillman (3/1), DT Keith Traylor (15/14), S Cameron Worrell (12/7)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
13; 6 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

corps is average at best. Beck was rattled last season, fumbling five times and throwing three picks with just one touchdown pass. McCown has a 12-19 record as a starter, but played on horrible teams in Oakland and Arizona. Henne is coming off a shoulder injury and questions about his arm strength.

RATING: 6

RUNNING BACKS

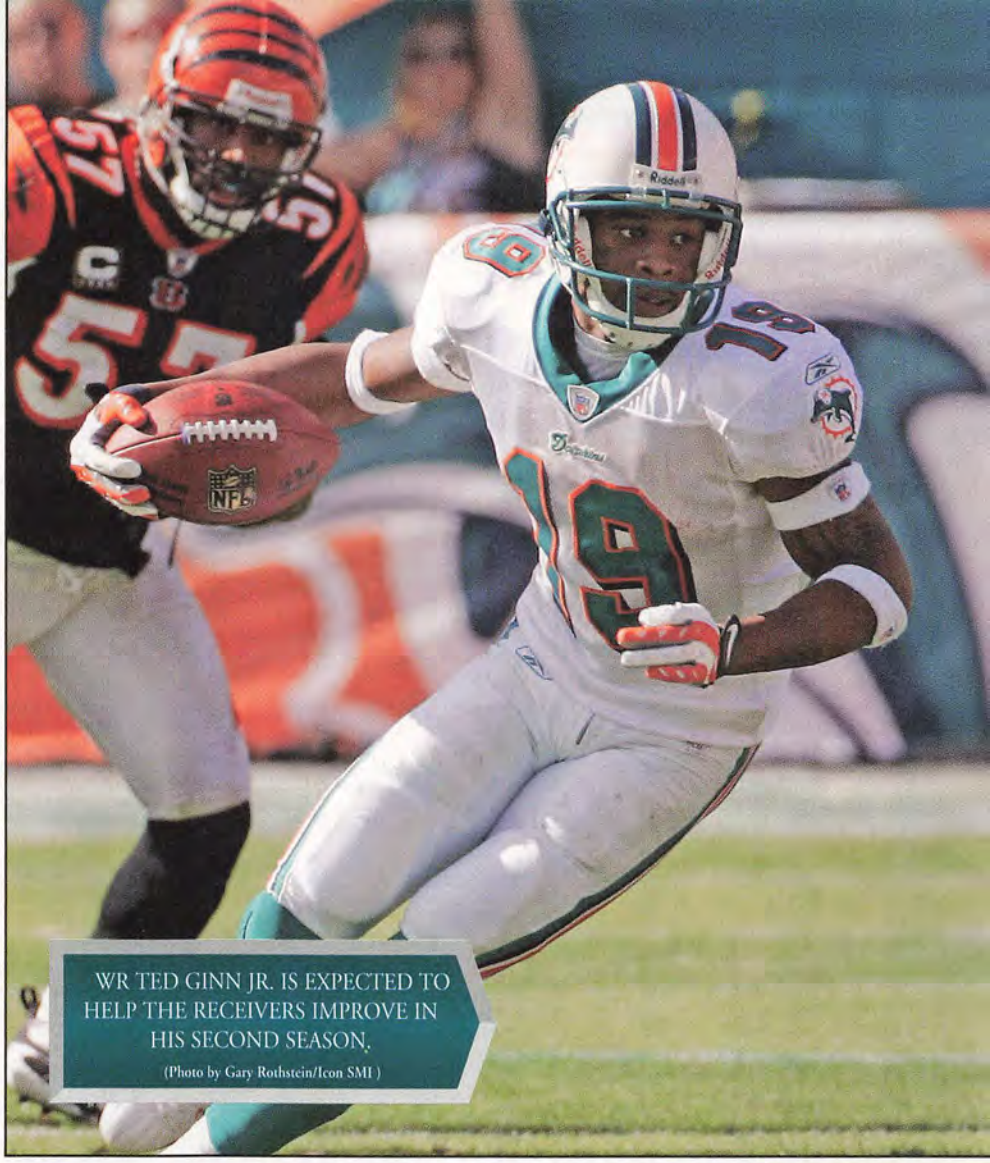
The backfield combo of Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams gained 1,650 yards in 2005 (last time they played together), and if they return to form after season-ending injuries, should surpass that figure with a revamped offensive line anchored by top draft pick Jake Long. Williams is in the final year of a contract paying him the league minimum because of past transgressions, so he'll be eager. Brown was on his way to a Pro Bowl season a year ago before tearing an ACL. Add powerful rookie Jalen Parmele into the mix and hard-blocking fullbacks Reagan Mauia and Boomer Grigsby and this unit should prosper. Parmele gained over 2,600 yards his last two seasons at Toledo.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

The continuing education of Ted Ginn Jr. is the key to this group's success, as is the addition of tall, rangy receiver Ernest Wilford, who should help around the goal line. Ginn did average a respectable 12.4 yards per catch and showed excellent hands. The lack of a strong-armed quarterback and pass protection didn't allow Ginn to stretch the defense. After them, it's a thin corps filled with injury-prone or inconsistent receivers such as Derek Hagan, Tab Perry and David Kircus. All three know they're running out of chances. Was Greg Camarillo a one-shot wonder after catching the game-winning touchdown pass against the Ravens? Look for a rookie free agent like a Davone Bess or Selwyn Lymon to make the squad. The tight ends will block, particularly Anthony Fasano and Justin Peelle, but will David Martin and Sean Ryan catch the ball?

RATING: 6



WR TED GINN JR. IS EXPECTED TO HELP THE RECEIVERS IMPROVE IN HIS SECOND SEASON.

(Photo by Gary Rothstein/Icon SMI)

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Jake Long instantly upgrades this unit, particularly in the run offense. Add solid guard Justin Smiley and promising center Samson Satele with strong rookie Shawn Murphy and blossoming tackle Vernon Carey and Sparano and offensive line coach Mike Maser will be able to mold this into a first-class unit. Rookie guard Donald Thomas is a project. The Dolphins brought in some college free-agent tackles who might stick, including Boise State right tackle Dan Gore, who was overshadowed by left tackle Ryan Clady; as well as Delaware left tackle Mike Byrne, Joe Flacco's left-side protector. Despite having an immobile quarterback in Trent Green and an inexperienced replacement in Cleo Lemon, before the running backs started getting hurt last season (Game 7), the offensive line was jelling, and the running backs were averaging about 4.5 yards per carry. However, the line crumbled down the stretch, allowing 25 of 42 sacks in the final six games.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

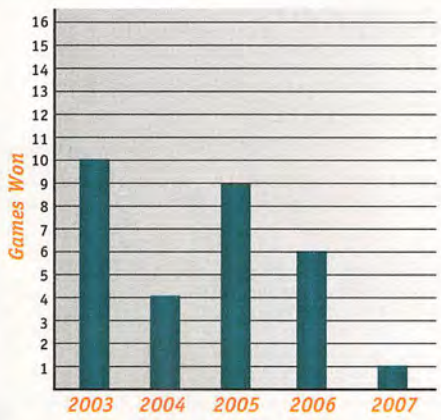
Rodgers and Parcells brought nose tackle Jason Ferguson from Dallas to plug the gap in the 3-4. Vonnie Holliday and Jason Taylor aren't getting any younger, while Matt Roth and Quentin Moses have yet to reach their potential. Taylor notched 11 sacks (six coming after the Dolphins were 0-10) to earn his sixth Pro Bowl berth. Holliday was hindered by an ankle injury and his production tailed off dramatically. It didn't help that former nose tackle Keith Traylor was decaying rapidly. Free-agent pickup defensive tackle Randy Starks and rookie defensive ends Phillip Merling and Kendall Langford should bring run-stuffing skills to the 32nd-ranked run defense. After sitting out his rookie season with an injury, defensive tackle Rod Wright came on strong at the end of a dismal season. Defensive tackle Paul Soliai had a forgettable rookie season, and linemen Rob Ninkovich and Derreck Robinson are just bodies.

RATING: 6.5

LINEBACKERS

Zach Thomas' Pro Bowl shoes will be tough to fill, but the combination of Channing Crowder and

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*

Dolphins Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
15	Bess, Davone	5-10	190	R	Hawaii	0/0	CFA 08	CFA MIA 08	College free agent could win job as slot receiver in Wes Welker type role.
83	Camarillo, Greg	6-1	190	3	Stanford	15/0	W,SD 07	CFA SD 06	Instant hero for game-winning 64-yard TD catch against the Ravens to prevent a winless season.
81	**Fasano, Anthony (TE)**	**6-4**	**265**	**3**	**Notre Dame**	**16/6**	**T,DALL 08**	**D2 DALL 06**	**Could blossom with regime that drafted him and from being away from Pro Bowler Jason Witten.**
14	Foster, Jayson	5-7	170	R	Georgia Southern	0/0	CFA 08	CFA MIA 08	College free agent with blazing speed could stick around for third-down receiver's role and as returner on special teams.
19	**Ginn, Ted**	**5-11**	**178**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**16/9**	**D1 07**	**D1 MIA 07**	**Showed flashes of playmaking skills, but not enough to warrant No. 9 pick — yet.**
82	Hagan, Derek	6-2	203	3	Arizona State	16/1	D3 06	D3 MIA 06	Continues to be inconsistent; makes tough catch, but drops routine tosses.
80	Halterman, Aaron (TE)	6-5	255	2	Indiana	9/0	FA 07	CFA HOUS 05	Indiana roots won't mean anything to this regime; so he's in trouble.
85	Kircus, David	6-2	192	4	Grand Valley State	0/0	FA 08	D6 DET 03	Running out of chances and time if he doesn't beat assault wrap.
88	Martin, David (TE)	6-4	265	8	Tennessee	15/15	UFA,GB 07	D6 GB 01	Stayed healthy for a change, but was still inconsistent and whiffed on too many sack-producing blocks.
87	Peelle, Justin (TE)	6-4	255	7	Oregon	16/10	UFA,SD 06	D4 SD 02	Congestion of tight ends; intelligence could earn him a spot.
17	*Perry, Tab	6-3	208	4	UCLA	2/1	FA 08	D6 CIN 05	Hip injury has stalled career after setting Bengals record for kick-return yardage in '05.
89	Ryan, Sean (TE)	6-5	265	4	Boston College	10/1	UFA,NYJ 08	D5 DALL 04	Parcells draft pick has size to serve as blocker in double tight-end formation.
18	**Wilford, Ernest**	**6-4**	**218**	**5**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/14**	**UFA,JAX 08**	**D4 JAX 04**	**Tall receiver Parcells loves, needs to avoid injuries.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	**Carey, Vernon (T)**	**6-5**	**335**	**5**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 MIA 04**	**Will be moved to right tackle, original position, to help balance the line.**
69	Darilek, Trey (G/C)	6-5	310	3	Texas-El Paso	0/0	FA 08	D4 PHA 04	Big man, whose versatility will have him in running for backup job.
79	**Long, Jake (T)**	**6-7**	**315**	**R**	**Michigan**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 MIA 08**	**Top pick of draft will start at left tackle and lead Fins to respectability.**
77	*Mormino, Drew (C/G)	6-3	299	2	Central Michigan	0/0	D6 07	D6 MIA 07	Injuries ruined rookie season; should compete for starting right guard job.
61	**Murphy, Shawn (G)**	**6-4**	**314**	**R**	**Utah State**	**0/0**	**D4 08**	**D4 MIA 08**	**Fourth-round pick and son of slugger Dale has size and smarts to start at right guard.**
68	Ndukwe, Ikechuku (G)	6-4	338	2	Northwestern	0/0	FA 07	CFA NO 05	Time to get off practice squad and hit somebody; right guard applicant?
64	**Satele, Samson (C)**	**6-3**	**300**	**2**	**Hawaii**	**16/16**	**D2 07**	**D2 MIA 07**	**Intelligence and strength; expected to be starting center for next decade.**
65	***Smiley, Justin (G)**	**6-3**	**311**	**5**	**Alabama**	**8/8**	**UFA,SF 08**	**D2 SF 04**	**First free agent signed; starting left guard should team with Long to bolster running game.**
66	Thomas, Donald (G)	6-4	305	R	Connecticut	0/0	D6 08	D6 MIA 08	Inexperienced UConn walk-on; sixth-rounder will be stashed on practice squad to hone craft.
78	Wilson, Julius (T)	6-4	327	1	UAB	0/0	FA 07	CFA MIA 07	Could get lost in a crowd of young tackles.
RUNNING BACKS									
23	***Brown, Ronnie**	**6-0**	**232**	**4**	**Auburn**	**7/7**	**D1 05**	**D1 MIA 05**	**On way to first Pro Bowl season before it was derailed by knee injury; should bounce back and excel with Long paving the way.**
38	Cobbs, Patrick	5-8	210	2	North Texas	14/0	FA 06	CFA NE 06	Crowded backfield means special teams only way to stick.
46	Grigsby, Boomer (FB)	5-11	249	4	Illinois State	13/1	FA 08	D5 KC 05	Will push Maula for fullback job, but busting wedges is his thing.
26	Hilliard, Lex	5-11	234	R	Montana	0/0	D6 08	D6 MIA 08	Sixth-rounder from Montana is combo RB/FB with nose for end zone (52 TDs).
45	**Maula, Reagan (FB)**	**6-0**	**270**	**2**	**Hawaii**	**16/9**	**D6 07**	**D6 MIA 07**	**Broken hand hindered rookie season; arrest for battery didn't help his offseason either.**
31	Parmele, Jalen	5-11	225	R	Toledo	0/0	D6 08	D6 MIA 08	Sixth-rounder runs with power and gained more than 2,600 yards his last two seasons.
34	*Williams, Ricky	5-10	225	7	Texas	1/0	T,NO 02	D1 NO 99	May start until Brown heals; playing for next contact somewhere.
QUARTERBACKS									
9	**Beck, John**	**6-2**	**216**	**2**	**Brigham Young**	**5/4**	**D2 07**	**D2 MIA 07**	**It's his job to lose; revamped O-line and increased strength should help him relax in pocket and cure fumbleitis.**
7	Henne, Chad	6-3	228	R	Michigan	0/0	D2 08	D2 MIA 08	Second-rounder is tough and knows how to win, two qualities Parcells loves; future starter?
4	McCown, Josh	6-4	215	7	Sam Houston State	9/9	UFA,OAK 08	D3 ARIZ 02	Veteran insurance in case young QBs aren't ready to lead; has all the tools, but 12-19 starting record doesn't impress.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	Dotson, Lionel (E)	6-4	295	R	Arizona	0/0	D7 08	D7 MIA 08	Seventh-rounder from Arizona had 6.5 sacks last year, but needs to overcome injury history to get on field.
95	***Ferguson, Jason (NT)**	**6-3**	**312**	**12**	**Georgia**	**1/1**	**T,DALL 08**	**D7 NYJ 97**	**Parcells favorite trying to bounce back from torn biceps; should plug the nose in the 3-4 for two more seasons.**
91	**Holliday, Vonnie (E)**	**6-5**	**288**	**11**	**North Carolina**	**12/12**	**FA 05**	**D1 GB 98**	**Sack total dropped precipitously from seven to two because of ankle injury; needs to show new regime he's worth big bucks.**
70	Langford, Kendall (E)	6-6	287	R	Hampton	0/0	D3 08	D3 MIA 08	Seventh-rounder from Hampton is 290 pounds and runs a 4.7; had six sacks and 72 tackles; combo DE/DT potential.
97	Merling, Phillip (E)	6-4	275	R	Clemson	0/0	D2 08	D2 MIA 08	Second rounder from Clemson should push Roth out of starting lineup once he's fully recovered from sports hernia.
74	Moses, Quentin (E)	6-5	260	2	Georgia	7/1	FA 07	D3 OAK 07	Late-season pickup after two teams cut rookie; could be a major contributor in pass-rushing situations.
93	Ninkovich, Rob (E)	6-2	252	3	Purdue	4/0	W,NO 07	D5 NO 06	Wasted season ended with knee injury; might not make team.
98	**Roth, Matt (E)**	**6-4**	**272**	**4**	**Iowa**	**13/9**	**D2 MIA 05**	**D2 MIA 05**	**Groin injury spoiled what should've been breakthrough year; back to drawing board after notching career-high three sacks.**
96	Soliai, Paul (E)	6-4	344	2	Utah	8/0	D4 07	D4 MIA 07	Absolute bust his rookie season; needs to show new regime something in camp or it's aloha.
94	Starks, Randy (NT)	6-3	312	5	Maryland	14/4	UFA,TENN 08	D3 TENN 04	Will back up Ferguson; and push Holliday and Roth for jobs. No sacks last year after 10.5 over first three seasons.
90	Wright, Rodrique (NT)	6-5	300	2	Texas	13/9	D7 06	D7 MIA 06	Had nice sophomore season with nine starts and 37 tackles; adds depth to tackle rotation.
LINEBACKERS									
56	Anderson, Charlie (O)	6-4	245	5	Mississippi	16/5	UFA,HOU 08	D6 HOUS 04	Free-agent pickup from Houston; is solid special teamer and did get five starts last year in base defense.
51	Ayodele, Akin (I)	6-2	250	7	Purdue	16/14	T,DALL 08	D3 JAX 02	Needs to get back to 100-tackle seasons to push Crowder for job.
52	***Crowder, Channing (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**4**	**Florida**	**11/10**	**D3 05**	**D3 MIA 05**	**Lack of big plays and off-field shenanigans may rub Parcells wrong way.**
43	Glymph, Junior (O)	6-5	270	4	Carson-Newman	0/0	FA 08	CFA GB 04	Former Cowboy targeted for special teams use.
50	Miles, Edmond (O)	6-0	230	2	Iowa	16/0	CFA 07	CFA MIA 07	Excellent special teams skills and could crack rotation in running situations.
49	Poppinga, Kelly	6-1	240	R	Brigham Young	0/0	CFA 08	CFA MIA 08	College free agent has bloodlines (brother Brady, Packers) and tackling skills to match.
55	**Porter, Joey (O)**	**6-3**	**250**	**10**	**Colorado State**	**16/15**	**FA 07**	**D3 PITT 99**	**Needs to rebound after helping get GM Randy Mueller canned for looking like $30 million dud.**
58	Smith, Kelvin (I)	6-2	233	1	Syracuse	4/0	D7 07	D7 MIA 07	Rookie season was a learning experience, but has potential.
99	**Taylor, Jason (O/DE)**	**6-6**	**255**	**12**	**Akron**	**16/16**	**D3 97**	**D3 MIA 97**	**If not traded, he'll have another Pro Bowl season and more than 11 sacks he had last year in hybrid OLB-DE role.**
59	**Torbor, Reggie (O)**	**6-2**	**250**	**5**	**Auburn**	**16/5**	**UFA,NYG 08**	**D4 NYG 04**	**Key ingredient to Giants Super Bowl run; will be in regular rotation to stop run.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
32	Allen, Jason (S)	6-1	213	3	Tennessee	16/9	D1 06	D1 MIA 06	Finally found a home at safety after two years of confusion; hard-hitter.
25	**Allen, Will (CB)**	**5-10**	**196**	**8**	**Syracuse**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYG 06**	**D1 NYG 01**	**Coming off Pro Bowl-like year; became effective blitzer with two sacks and several near misses.**
37	***Bell, Yeremiah (S)**	**6-0**	**200**	**5**	**Eastern Kentucky**	**1/1**	**FA 04**	**D6 MIA 03**	**Anticipated breakout season ended after one game (Achilles); one more chance to be a star?**
47	Bryan, Courtney (S)	6-0	202	2	New Mexico State	12/0	CFA 07	CFA MIA 07	How he survived Parcells' purge is anybody's guess. Don't count on him making the final 53.
20	**Crocker, Chris (S)**	**5-11**	**192**	**6**	**Marshall**	**14/14**	**UFA,ATL 08**	**D3 CLV 03**	**Former Falcons vet should edge Hill for starting job; excellent in run support.**
29	Daniels, Travis (CB)	6-1	192	4	Louisiana State	16/5	D4 05	D4 MIA 05	Shuttled between corner and safety last year; has regressed since rookie season under Nick Saban, his college coach.
28	Davis, Keith (S)	5-11	207	6	Sam Houston	14/1	UFA,DALL 08	CFA DALL 02	Brought from Dallas to fortify special teams units; will play in dime situations.
21	*Goodman, Andre' (CB)	5-10	185	7	South Carolina	13/4	UFA,DET 06	D3 DET 02	Solid ball-hawker, but coming off two years of shoulder and knee injuries.
24	*Hill, Renaldo (CB)	5-11	190	8	Michigan State	7/7	UFA,OAK 06	D7 ARIZ 01	Free safety had 32 tackles and pick in first seven games before knee injury ended season.
33	Jones, Nathan (CB)	5-10	183	5	Rutgers	15/0	UFA,DALL 08	D7 DALL 04	Same story as Keith Davis.
22	**Lehan, Mike (CB)**	**6-0**	**190**	**5**	**Minnesota**	**15/14**	**FA 06**	**D5 CLV 03**	**Best NFL season by far with 56 tackles in 14 starts. Could start opposite Will Allen.**
41	Thomas, Joey (CB)	6-1	190	3	Montana State	0/0	FA 08	D3 GB 04	Fourth team in four years, including Dallas where Parcells must have a reason he likes him.
SPECIALISTS									
92	Denney, John (LS)	6-5	270	4	Brigham Young	16/0	CFA 05	CFA MIA 05	Sure-handed long snapper should help Fields get to Pro Bowl someday.
3	Feely, Jay (K)	5-10	210	8	Michigan	16/0	UFA,NYG 07	CFA ATL 01	Most consistent player on offense, set team record for field-goal accuracy (91.3 percent).
2	Fields, Brandon (P)	6-5	236	2	Michigan State	16/0	D7 07	D7 MIA 07	Powerful foot produces skyscrapers; placement improved as rookie season progressed.
16	Rayner, Dave (K)	6-2	210	4	Michigan State	11/0	FA 08	D6 IND 05	Could push Feely for kickoff duties if Dolphins opt to keep two kickers.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Selwyn Lymon (Purdue), Justin Wynn (Grand Rapids CC); TE Matthew Mulligan (Maine); OTs Dan Gore (Boise State), Daren Heerspink (Portland State); C Mike Byrne (Delaware); DE/LB Keith Saunders (Alabama); DTs Kory Robertson (Virginia Tech), Anthony Toribio (Carson-Newman); LBs Titus Brown (Mississippi State), Kelly Poppinga (Brigham Young); CB Scorpio Babers (Sam Houston State); S Will Billingsley (North Carolina A&T); PK Dan Carpenter (Montana).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Improved quarterback play. Whether it's John Beck, Josh McCown or rookie Chad Henne, the Dolphins will go nowhere unless there's dramatic improvement at this position where last year's trio of Trent Green, Cleo Lemon and Beck had just 12 touchdown passes and a combined passer rating of 69.6.
2. Improved run defense. With the addition of nose tackle Jason Ferguson and the influx of run-stuffing linebackers, such as Reggie Torbor and Akin Ayodele, the Parcells-led 3-4 defense should allow far less yards than the NFL's worst-ranked unit let up last season.
3. Better health. Both Bill Parcells and coach Tony Sparano are fanatical about weight-room work and conditioning, so it would be shocking if the Dolphins had half as many of the 15 players that ended up on injured reserve last season.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Ronnie Brown

Through nearly seven games last season Ronnie Brown was finally living up to the hype associated with being the second overall pick of the 2005 draft.

However, Brown's Pro Bowl aspirations and his season ended in a Game 7 loss to the Patriots when he tore the ACL in his right knee while trying to make a tackle on Patriots cornerback Randall Gay, who was returning an interception.

At the time of the injury, Brown was leading the NFL in multi-purpose yardage with 991 yards, including 39 catches for 389 yards to lead all running backs. He averaged 5.1 yards per carry, and had already tied his career-high with five touchdowns.

Brown's coming back to a new regime and a revamped offensive line, with mammoth rookie left tackle Jake Long anchoring what should be a vastly improved running attack. Dolphins czar Bill Parcells and offensive coordinator Dan Henning favor a power running game with double tight-end formations. They love big backs like Brown who can burst through tackles, so it should be a marriage made in heaven.

However, if Brown's knee isn't ready to go, then Ricky Williams could be the one on the hot seat.

Dallas castoff Akin Adoyele should suffice. Taylor will drop back with this group more often than not in the 3-4 and this year will team up with a healthy, motivated Joey Porter to put the fear of God into opposing tight ends or tailbacks trying to slow them down. They brought in inside linebacker Reggie Torbor, who seemed to blossom during the Giants Super Bowl run last season, as well as Texans outside linebacker Charlie Anderson, who should make the rotation and bolster the special teams. Dolphins linebackers forced just six fumbles last season, which included four by Jason Taylor. Crowder must make some impact plays before Parcells hands him the Mike position.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

Chris Crocker brings a touch of class, durability and experience to the safety position that went through eight starters last season. Jason Allen is improving now that he's not shuttling back and forth between corner and safety; and last year's season-starting safeties Renaldo Hill and Yeremiah Bell should be healthy again. Keith Davis adds hard-hitting depth. At corner, veteran leadership and the ball-hawking prowess of Will Allen and Andre' Goodman will be aided by the improving Michael Lehan, but after that Nathan Jones and a regressing Travis Daniels aren't making any Pro Bowls. The Dolphins couldn't plug every hole in the draft. Where are the playmakers?

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jay Feely is getting better and more accurate with age, setting a franchise record by converting 91.3 percent (21 of 23) of his field-goal attempts. His two misses came on unplayable sloppy fields. Feely should notch more than eight touchbacks now that Cam Cameron isn't around to tell him to pooch kick because he didn't trust special teams coverage. Punter Brandon Fields averaged a respectable 43.2 yards per punt and put 10 within the 10-yard line. He should improve under kicking coach Steve Hoffman. Long-snapper John Denney was invisible last season, a positive attribute for a long snapper. Ted Ginn Jr. should be electric with improved blocking and a healthy Tab Perry to take away some of the return load. Remember Ginn had three kick-return touchdowns called back by penalties that had nothing to do with springing him.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

Bill Parcells adds instant credibility and respect to a 1-15 franchise in turmoil. He also has experience in turning around floundering franchises within two years of taking the reins. See the Jets, Patriots and Cowboys for proof. Still, the only Super Bowls or playoff games he's ever won, Tuna had Bill Belichick at his side.

RATING: Plus 2

—Harvey Fialkov

2007 RESULTS

Record: 1-15

Sep. 9	at Washington (OT)	13-16
Sep. 16	DALLAS	20-37
Sep. 23	at N.Y. Jets	28-31
Sep. 30	OAKLAND	17-35
Oct. 7	at Houston	19-22
Oct. 14	at Cleveland	31-41
Oct. 21	NEW ENGLAND	28-49
Oct. 28	N.Y. GIANTS (London)	10-13
Nov. 4	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 11	BUFFALO	10-13
Nov. 18	at Philadelphia	7-17
Nov. 26	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	0- 3
Dec. 2	N.Y. JETS	13-40
Dec. 9	at Buffalo	17-38
Dec. 16	BALTIMORE (OT)	22-16
Dec. 23	at New England	7-28
Dec. 30	CINCINNATI	25-38

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	TAMPA BAY (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 16	at Jacksonville (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 23	KANSAS CITY (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at New Orleans (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Sep. 14	at Arizona	1:15
Sep. 21	at New England	1:00
Sep. 28	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 5	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Oct. 12	at Houston	12:00
Oct. 19	BALTIMORE	1:00
Oct. 26	BUFFALO	1:00
Nov. 2	at Denver	2:05
Nov. 9	SEATTLE	1:00
Nov. 16	OAKLAND	1:00
Nov. 23	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov. 30	at St. Louis	12:00
Dec. 7	at Buffalo (Toronto)	4:05
Dec. 14	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec. 21	at Kansas City	12:00
Dec. 28	at N.Y. Jets	1:00

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

2007 RECORD: 18-1 | STADIUM: Gillette Stadium, 68,756, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

AFC EAST

www.patriots.com

AT A GLANCE

Gillette Stadium
One Patriot Place
Foxborough, MA 02035
(508) 543-8200

TRAINING CAMP:
Gillette Stadium; Foxborough, MA

COACH:
Bill Belichick, 9th year with Patriots (105-40), 14th year as NFL head coach (142-85)

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Scott Pioli

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Nick Caserio

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Josh McDaniels	Off. coordinator/QB	8	8
Dante Scarnecchia	*Offensive line	27	25
Ivan Fears	Running backs	18	12
Bill O'Brien	Receivers	2	2
Pete Mangurian	Tight ends	17	4
Dean Pees	Defensive coordinator	5	5
Pepper Johnson	Defensive line	9	9
Matt Patricia	Linebackers	5	5
Dom Capers	@Secondary	22	1
Josh Boyer	Defensive assistant	3	3
Brad Seely	Special teams	20	10
Mike Woicik	Strength & Cond.	19	9
Harold Nash	Strength & Cond.	4	4
Don Davis	Strength & Cond.	2	2

*Assistant head coach
@Special assistant

Can They Come Close to Perfection Again?

Almost perfect.

The Patriots were just 2:34 from a season for the ages, one that would have been widely acclaimed as the greatest in NFL history. But their hopes for a perfect, 19-0 record were dashed when the Giants drove 83 yards to the winning touchdown in the closing minutes of Super Bowl XLII.

"Our goal," defensive end Richard Seymour said, "wasn't to be perfect. It was to win the Super Bowl."

The goal remains unchanged, and so, for the most part, does the Patriots' lineup. Which is why they'll be overwhelming favorites to win a sixth straight AFC East title, and very well could make what would be their fifth trip to the Super Bowl in eight years.

Offensively, the unit that racked up a league-record, 589 points, scoring at least 31 in 12 of 16 regular-season games, returns virtually intact. If the Patriots have a weakness, it may be on defense, with an aging linebacking corps and a suspect secondary.

COACHING

It is what it is, Bill Belichick likes to say. His old boss, Bill Parcells, often said: "You are what your record says you are." Well, Belichick's record over the last seven seasons in New England includes three Lombardi trophies, four conference championships, and six division titles — the last five of them in a row. What he is, then, is the best coach in the NFL. Offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels could follow in the footsteps of Cleveland's Romeo Crennel, the Jets' Eric Mangini, and Notre Dame's Charlie Weis as the next Belichick assistant to become a head coach. While Dean Pees remains the coordinator, the New England defense should get a boost from Dom Capers, whose primary responsibility will be the secondary, but also is expected to contribute in other areas. The only coach in NFL history to bring two expansion teams — Carolina and Houston — into existence, Capers spent the last two years as defensive coordinator for the Dolphins. He was NFL Coach of the Year in 1996, when he took the Panthers to the NFC Championship Game in only their second season.

RATING: 10

QUARTERBACKS

Finally given a receiving corps equal to his own considerable talents, Tom Brady set a league record by passing for 50 touchdowns, then threw for six more in the playoffs. While it's not realistic to expect him to break his own record this season, there's every reason to expect him to have another highly-productive year. As durable as he is talented, Brady has yet to miss a start since taking over for Drew Bledsoe three games into the 2001 season. In contrast, his backup, Matt Cassel, hasn't started a game since he was in high school in 1999, having played behind Cincinnati's Carson Palmer

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Jerod Mayo

First-round draft choice Jerod Mayo, taken 10th overall, adds much-needed youth and speed at linebacker. In Belichick's eight drafts in New England, this was the first time he's taken a linebacker before the sixth round.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
WR Sam Aiken, CB Fernando Bryant, LB Victor Hobson, P Scott Player, TE Marcus Pollard, CB Lewis Sanders, CB Jason Webster, S Tank Williams

KEY LOSS:
CB Asante Samuel (16/14)*
Samuel, who led the team in interceptions the last three years, signed with the Eagles. The team's best cover corner, he not only had 16 regular-season picks the last two years, but also had three postseason touchdowns.

OTHER LOSSES:
TE Kyle Brady (14/9), WR Troy Brown (1/0), LB Rosevelt Colvin (11/10), CB Randall Gay (16/3), S Mel Mitchell (10/0), DL Rashad Moore (1/0), CB Chad Scott (0/0), WR Donte Stallworth (16/9), DB Eugene Wilson (11/6)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 9 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

and the Cardinals' Matt Leinart at Southern Cal. Very much in the hunt to be Brady's understudy is third-round draft choice Kevin O'Connell of San Diego State.

RATING: 9.5

RUNNING BACKS

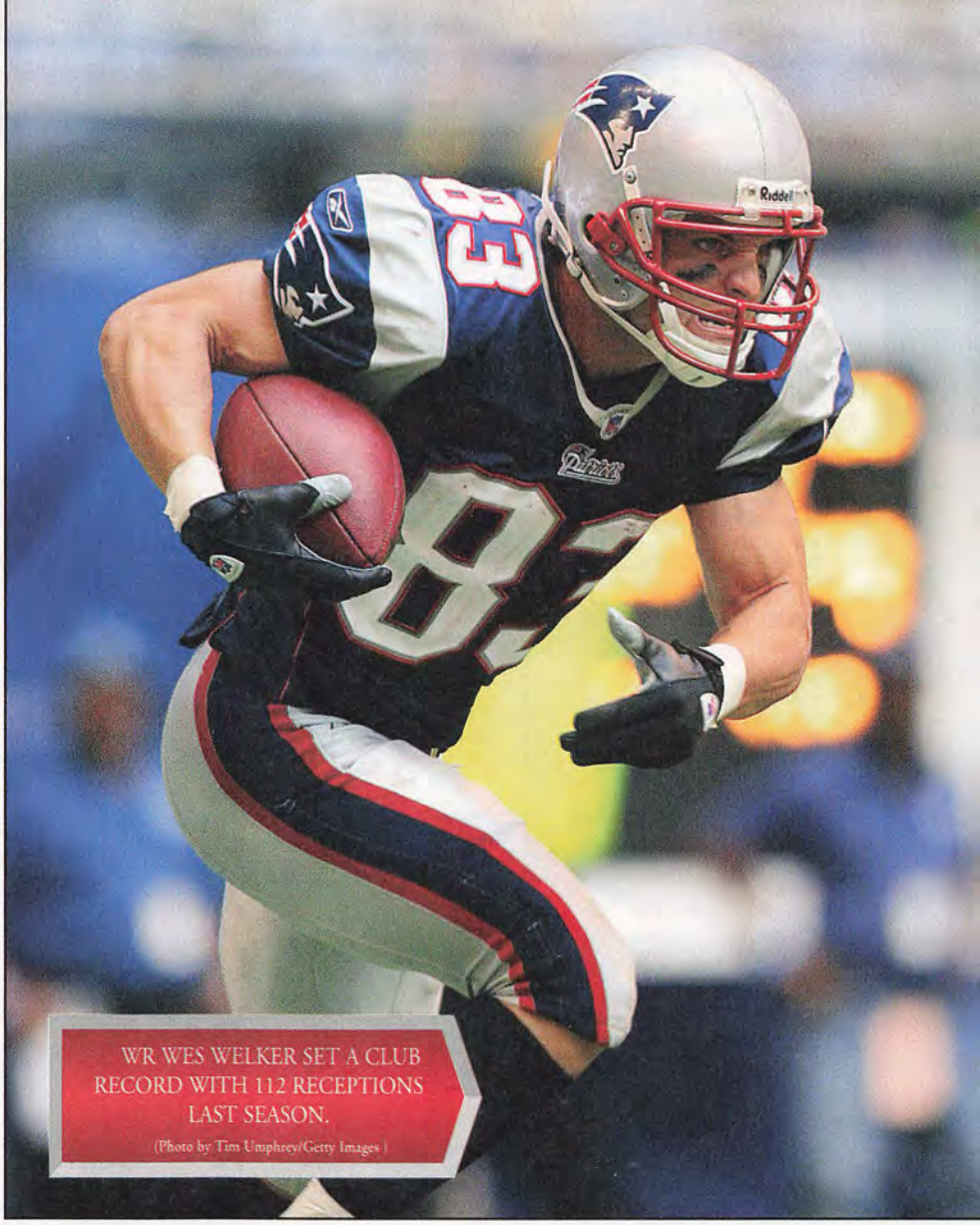
Laurence Maroney, the Patriots' first-round pick in 2006, became the featured back last season following the departure of Corey Dillon and handled the role well, rushing for 835 yards and six touchdowns on 185 carries, a 4.5-yard average. He has the speed to get outside, but also is learning to find holes inside, and is strong enough to break tackles. While Maroney did most of the running, nine-year veteran Kevin Faulk again did most of the receiving out of the backfield, making 47 catches for 383 yards. Sammy Morris, signed as a free agent from Miami, rushed for more than 100 yards in back-to-back games filling in for Maroney before suffering a season-ending injury.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

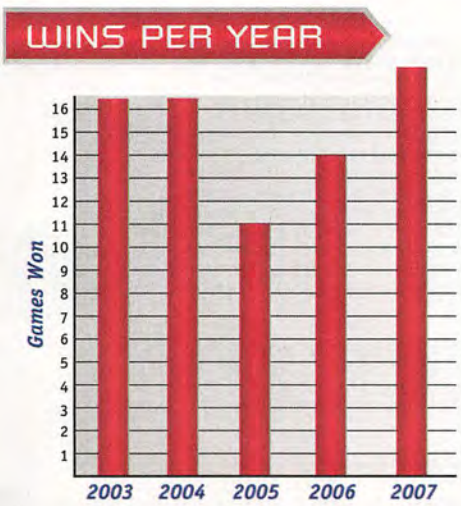
In what turned out to be steals, rather than deals, the Patriots traded for Randy Moss and Wes Welker before the '07 season. Moss, obtained from Oakland on the second day of the draft for a fourth-round pick, set an NFL record by catching 23 touchdowns passes. A human highlight film all season, he averaged 15.2 yards per catch, racking up 1,493 yards on 98 receptions. Welker, obtained from Miami in exchange for second- and seventh-round choices, set a franchise record with 112 receptions, eight of them for touchdowns. He was the perfect complement to Moss, whose ability to get behind the secondary and make big plays — something that the Patriots had sorely lacked in 2006 — created openings underneath the coverage that Welker exploited repeatedly. Add tight end Ben Watson, who's coming off ankle surgery, highly-capable third receiver Jabar Gaffney (36 catches, five for touchdowns) and Faulk coming out of the backfield, and the Patriots have the best receiving corps in team history.

RATING: 9.5



WR WES WELKER SET A CLUB RECORD WITH 112 RECEPTIONS LAST SEASON.

(Photo by Tim Umphrey/Getty Images)



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Although the Patriots sent three offensive linemen to the Pro Bowl — left tackle Matt Light, left guard Logan Mankins and center Dan Koppen — they allowed an embarrassing five sacks in the Super Bowl after yielding just 21 during the regular season. With starters Stephen Neal and Nick Kaczur returning on the right side, this will mark the unit's fourth season together. That continuity, and familiarity, played a major role in the Patriots' ability to both run and pass effectively while putting up points in record numbers. The offensive linemen know that, if they can keep Brady standing, the Patriots will remain atop the AFC East standings. Russ Hochstein and Ryan O'Callaghan are capable, and versatile, backups.

RATING: 8.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

It's a healthy outlook for the Patriots' defensive front, now that Seymour, a five-time Pro Bowler, has recovered from the nagging knee problems that sidelined him the first half of last season. He's joined up front by fellow former first-round picks Ty Warren ('03) and nose tackle Vince Wilfork ('04.) Sack specialist Jarvis Green, a fourth-round choice in 2002, had 6.5 last season. It's a talented group that has the ability both to stuff the run and pressure the passer.

RATING: 8.5

LINEBACKERS

The good news is that the New England linebacking corps is extremely versatile. The bad news is that it's also venerable. And, because of age, vulnerable. Mike Vrabel, at 33, is coming off the best season of his career. He went to his first Pro Bowl after racking up a team-high 12.5 sacks. He also caught a couple more touchdown passes while playing tight end in goal-line situations, bringing his career total to 10, including two in Super Bowls.

Patriots Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY *	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
88	Aiken, Sam	6-2	215	6	North Carolina	12/0	UFA,BUFF 08	D4 BUFF 03	His career-high of 11 receptions came in 2004.
10	**Gaffney, Jabar**	**6-1**	**200**	**7**	**Florida**	**16/7**	**FA 06**	**D2 HOUS 02**	**Has had three postseason touchdown catches for the Patriots.**
17	Jackson, Chad	6-1	215	3	Florida	2/0	D2 06	D2 NE 06	Injured most of '07, played in two games without catching a pass.
81	**Moss, Randy**	**6-4**	**210**	**11**	**Marshall**	**16/16**	**T,OAK 07**	**D1 MINN 98**	**Big-play receiver was the most-feared wideout in football last year.**
87	Pollard, Marcus (TE)	6-3	255	14	Bradley	14/10	UFA,SEA 08	CFA IND 95	Veteran tight end with 349 career catches hopes to catch on with Pats.
18	Slater, Matt	6-0	198	R	UCLA	0/0	D5 08	D5 NE 08	Speedy return specialist ran three kickoffs back for TDs at UCLA.
82	Spach, Stephen (TE)	6-4	250	2	Fresno State	3/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 05	Journeyman coming to training camp as possible backup.
86	*Thomas, David (TE)	6-3	248	3	Texas	2/0	D3 06	D3 NE 06	Had 11 catches as a rookie, but spent most of last year on injured reserve.
15	Washington, Kelley	6-3	215	6	Tennessee	14/0	UFA,CIN 07	D3 CIN 03	Played key role on special teams, making 18 tackles.
84	**Watson, Benjamin (TE)**	**6-3**	**255**	**5**	**Georgia**	**12/8**	**D1 04**	**D1 NE 04**	**Had five TDs through five games, just one the rest of the season.**
83	**Welker, Wes (KR)**	**5-9**	**185**	**5**	**Texas Tech**	**16/13**	**T,MIA 07**	**CFA SD 04**	**Set a team record in his first season with Patriots, making 112 catches.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
65	Britt, Wesley (T)	6-8	320	3	Alabama	4/1	FA 06	D5 SD 05	Inactive most of '07; played sparingly on special teams.
63	Connolly, Dan (G)	6-4	313	3	Southeast Missouri State	0/0	FA 08	CFA JAX 05	Undrafted out of college, spent time with Jaguars as a backup.
71	Hochstein, Russ (G/C)	6-4	305	8	Nebraska	16/8	FA 03	D5 TB 01	Can play every position on line; started career-high eight games in '07.
77	**Kaczur, Nick (T)**	**6-4**	**315**	**4**	**Toledo**	**15/15**	**D3 05**	**D3 NE 05**	**A Canadian, he's been a starter since his rookie year in '05.**
67	**Koppen, Dan (C)**	**6-2**	**296**	**6**	**Boston College**	**15/15**	**D6 03**	**D5 NE 03**	**Voted to his first Pro Bowl last year in fifth season with Patriots.**
72	**Light, Matt (T)**	**6-4**	**305**	**8**	**Purdue**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 NE 01**	**Pro Bowl left tackle has been key factor in Brady's never missing a start.**
70	**Mankins, Logan (G/T)**	**6-4**	**310**	**4**	**Fresno State**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 NE 05**	**Has started every game since being drafted in Round One in '05.**
61	**Neal, Stephen (G)**	**6-4**	**305**	**6**	**Cal State-Bakersfield**	**8/8**	**FA 01**	**CFA NE 01**	**An NCAA championship wrestler in college, he didn't play college football.**
68	O'Callaghan, Ryan (T)	6-7	330	3	California	15/1	D5 06	D5 NE 06	Massive tackle started six games as a rookie in '06.
74	Yates, Billy (G)	6-2	305	4	Texas A&M	7/1	FA 06	CFA MIA 03	Has bounced on and off practice squad since coming to New England in '05.
RUNNING BACKS									
38	Eckel, Kyle (FB)	5-11	237	2	Navy	12/0	FA 07	CFA NE 05	Primarily a special teamer; also rushed for two touchdowns.
44	Evans, Heath (FB)	6-0	250	8	Auburn	16/1	FA 05	D3 SEA 01	His three touchdowns last year were his first in six NFL seasons.
33	Faulk, Kevin	5-8	202	10	Louisiana State	16/8	D2 99	D2 NE 99	A fine receiver, he also averaged 4.3 yards on 63 carries.
39	**Maroney, Laurence**	**5-11**	**220**	**3**	**Minnesota**	**13/6**	**D1 06**	**D1 NE 06**	**Continued improvement expected from promising young talent.**
34	*Morris, Sammy (FB)	6-0	220	9	Texas Tech	6/2	UFA,MIA 07	D5 BUFF 00	Proved highly capable backup for Maroney until injured in midseason.
QUARTERBACKS									
12	**Brady, Tom**	**6-4**	**225**	**9**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D6 00**	**D6 NE 00**	**You can't convince Pats fans there's a better quarterback in the NFL.**
16	Cassel, Matt	6-4	230	4	Southern Cal	6/0	D7 05	D7 NE 05	His backup job is in jeopardy following the drafting of O'Connell.
7	Gutierrez, Matt	6-4	230	2	Idaho State	5/0	CFA 07	CFA NE 07	Will battle once again for roster spot as third quarterback.
5	O'Connell, Kevin	6-5	225	R	San Diego State	0/0	D3 08	D3 NE 08	Third-round draft choice could become Brady's understudy.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	Fifita, Steve (T)	6-0	312	2	Utah	13/1	FA 08	CFA MIA 06	Picked up after being cut by Miami this spring; might compete for backup spot.
97	Green, Jarvis (E)	6-3	285	7	Louisiana State	16/10	D4 02	D4 NE 02	He's at his best rushing the passer.
93	**Seymour, Richard (E)**	**6-6**	**310**	**8**	**Georgia**	**9/8**	**D1 01**	**D1 NE 01**	**Missed Pro Bowl for first time since '01 because of knee problems.**
95	Smith, Kenny (T)	6-4	300	6	Alabama	0/0	FA 08	D3 NO 01	Started nine games for New Orleans in 2003; had 3.5 sacks in '02.
90	Smith, Le Kevin (NT)	6-3	308	3	Nebraska	13/0	D6 06	D6 NE 06	One of those bottom-of-the-roster guys the Patriots love to find.
92	Thomas, Santonio (T)	6-4	305	2	Miami	4/0	FA 07	CFA NE 05	Has been primarily a practice-squad player for New England.
94	**Warren, Ty (E)**	**6-5**	**300**	**6**	**Texas A&M**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 NE 03**	**Challenging Seymour for reputation as Pats' best defensive lineman.**
75	**Wilfork, Vince (NT)**	**6-2**	**325**	**5**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 NE 04**	**He's a force in the middle, stopping the run and rushing the passer.**
99	*Wright, Mike (NT)	6-4	295	4	Cincinnati	9/1	CFA 05	CFA NE 05	Had 12 tackles in nine games as backup before going on injured reserve.
LINEBACKERS									
52	Alexander, Eric (O)	6-2	240	3	Louisiana State	12/0	FA 06	CFA NE 04	This is the year he needs to move up, or he'll be moving on.
54	**Bruschi, Tedy (I)**	**6-1**	**247**	**13**	**Arizona**	**16/16**	**D3 96**	**D3 NE 96**	**Has lost a step, but remains one of most popular Patriots ever.**
98	Crable, Shawn	6-5	243	R	Michigan	0/0	D3 08	D3 NE 08	Should have a chance to see playing time as a rookie.
59	**Hobson, Victor (O)**	**6-0**	**252**	**6**	**Michigan**	**16/14**	**UFA,NYJ 08**	**D2 NYJ 03**	**Started 58 games in five seasons for Jets, with 11 sacks.**
53	Izzo, Larry (I)	5-10	228	13	Rice	16/0	UFA,MIA 01	CFA MIA 96	A special teams standout, he's been voted to three Pro Bowls.
51	Mayo, Jerod	6-1	242	R	Tennessee	0/0	D1 08	D1 NE 08	He'll be expected to step in and help right away.
91	Ruud, Bo	6-3	235	R	Nebraska	0/0	D6 08	D6 NE 08	Brother Barrett plays linebacker for the Buccaneers.
55	Seau, Junior (O)	6-3	250	19	Southern Cal	16/4	FA 06	D1 SD 90	Considering coming back for his 19th season in hunt for elusive championship ring.
96	**Thomas, Adalius (O)**	**6-2**	**270**	**9**	**Southern Mississippi**	**16/15**	**UFA,BLT 07**	**D6 BLT 00**	**Had a super Super Bowl and is being counted on for more of the same.**
50	**Vrabel, Mike (I)**	**6-4**	**261**	**12**	**Ohio State**	**16/15**	**UFA,PITT 01**	**D3 PITT 97**	**Coming off career-year; he's an amazingly versatile performer.**
58	Woods, Pierre (O)	6-5	250	3	Michigan	16/0	CFA 06	CFA NE 06	Like Alexander, he could be at the crossroads of his career.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
23	Andrews, Willie (S)	5-10	190	3	Baylor	15/0	D7 06	D7 NE 06	Highlight of season was 77-yard kickoff return for touchdown at Miami.
25	**Bryant, Fernando (CB)**	**5-10**	**175**	**10**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**FA 08**	**D1 JAX 99**	**A starter in Detroit; could take over Asante Samuel's spot.**
37	**Harrison, Rodney (S)**	**6-1**	**220**	**15**	**Western Illinois**	**12/11**	**FA 03**	**D5 SD 94**	**Not the player he once was, but still better than most.**
27	**Hobbs, Ellis (CB)**	**5-9**	**195**	**4**	**Iowa State**	**16/16**	**D3 05**	**D3 NE 05**	**Might be better as a return specialist than he is as a corner.**
31	Meriweather, Brandon (S)	5-11	200	2	Miami	16/0	D1 07	D1 MINN 07	A mild disappointment as a rookie; needs to step up.
35	*Richardson, Mike (CB)	5-11	190	2	Notre Dame	0/0	D6 07	D6 NE 07	Injured as rookie; had seven interceptions his last two years at Notre Dame.
36	**Sanders, James (S)**	**5-10**	**210**	**4**	**Fresno State**	**15/15**	**D4 05**	**D4 NE 05**	**His 73 tackles last year were tops among Pats' defensive backs.**
29	*Sanders, Lewis (CB)	6-1	210	9	Maryland	14/6	FA 08	D4 CLV 00	Pats are fourth team in nine years; has five career interceptions.
28	Spann, Antwain (CB)	6-0	195	2	Louisiana-Lafayette	1/0	FA 07	CFA NYG 05	Could have a hard time sticking with team for another season.
41	Ventrone, Raymond (S)	5-10	200	1	Villanova	2/0	FA 07	CFA NE 05	Had big hit on late-game kickoff against Giants in Super Bowl XLII.
21	*Webster, Jason (CB)	5-9	187	9	Texas A&M	1/1	UFA,BUFF 08	D2 SF 00	Has had 11 career interceptions, and two touchdowns, for three teams.
22	Wheatley, Terrence (CB)	5-9	183	R	Colorado	0/0	D2 08	D2 NE 08	Team's concerns about secondary made him their second pick.
24	Wilhite, Jonathan (CB)	5-11	185	R	Auburn	0/0	D4 08	D4 NE 08	Patriots needed to get younger and faster in defensive backfield.
26	Williams, Tank (S)	6-2	223	6	Stanford	13/2	UFA,MINN 08	D2 TENN 02	In addition to five interceptions in 59 starts, also has blocked two field-goal attempts.
SPECIALISTS									
3	Gostkowski, Steven (K)	6-1	210	3	Memphis	16/0	D4 06	D4 NE 06	Extremely accurate, but distance remains a question mark.
6	Hanson, Chris (P)	6-2	202	10	Marshall	16/0	FA 07	CFA CLV 99	Spent six seasons in Jacksonville before coming to New England.
66	Paxton, Lonie (LS)	6-2	260	9	Cal State-Sacramento	16/0	CFA 00	CFA NE 00	This will be his ninth season as the Patriots' snapper.
	Player, Scott (P)	6-1	206	10	Florida State	3/0	FA 08	CFA ARIZ 96	Will make for interesting competition with Hanson.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WR C.J. Jones (1, Iowa); TEs Tyson DeVree (Colorado), Jonathan Stupar (Virginia); G/T Jimmy Martin (1, Virginia Tech); C Ryan Wendell (Fresno State); RB BenJarvus Green-Ellis (Mississippi); DEs Chris Norwell (Illinois), Casey Tyler (Portland State); NT Henry Smith (Texas A&M); LBs Gary Guyton (Georgia Tech), Vince Redd (Liberty); S Mark Dillard (Louisiana Tech); P Mike Dragosavich (North Dakota State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Patriots' last two postseason losses have come when the defense couldn't hold a lead in the closing minutes, allowing long touchdown drives. With a suspect secondary, and an elderly linebacking corps, the Pats again could be in trouble if it is defense that does, indeed, win championships.
2. Tom Brady has been amazingly durable, never having missed a start since taking over for the injured Drew Bledsoe three games into the 2001 season. But he took a lot of hits from the Giants in the Super Bowl, and opponents know the only way to beat New England is to get to him.
3. On paper, the Patriots have the easiest schedule in the NFL, with an opponents' winning percentage of only .387. While they're hardly likely to go undefeated again, it's hard to see them losing very many games.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Randy Moss

The hope, heading into last season, was that Randy Moss would disrupt opposing defenses. The fear was that he might disrupt the championship karma so carefully cultivated by the Patriots.

As it turned out, opponents were scared stiff, and the Pats needn't have worried. While Moss drove defensive coordinators to distraction, he was a model teammate in New England.

From the season opener against the Jets at the Meadowlands, when he caught nine passes for 183 yards and a 51-yard touchdown, through the final game of the regular season against the Giants, when he caught two touchdown passes that brought his total to 23, breaking Jerry Rice's record, Moss was a weekly highlight film.

Not only did he provide quarterback Tom Brady with the explosive deep threat the team had been lacking, but also, by stretching the secondary, he helped create openings underneath for Wes Welker to grab a club-record 112 receptions.

So the question now is: What can he do for an encore?

And perhaps one other: Will he continue to be a solid citizen?

While it seems unlikely Moss can top his production of a year ago, anyone who watched him throughout a magical season knows it's possible, even though defenses certainly will be designed to stop him.

As for his history of misbehavior, it was just that last season: History. Ancient history, the Patriots believe.

Fan favorite Tedy Bruschi led the team in tackles, with 99, but is heading into his 13th season at the age of 35. Adalius Thomas, 31, can stuff the run (82 tackles), rush the passer (6.5 sacks), and also drop in coverage (one interception, eight passes defensed.) Ageless Junior Seau has been considering coming back for a 19th season at the age of 39. The Patriots moved to add young legs by drafting Jerod Mayo, who played both inside and outside in college at Tennessee, with the 10th pick in the first round, outside linebacker Shawn Crable of Michigan in the third, and Bo Ruud of Nebraska in the sixth. Victor Hobson, signed as a free agent from the Jets, is projected as a starter inside. Also available are returning backups Eric Alexander and Pierre Woods.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

A primary concern, with top-notch cover corner Asante Samuel and his 16 pass interceptions over the past two seasons off to Philadelphia and Randall Gay signed by New Orleans. The favorite to fill Samuel's spot is free-agent signee Fernando Bryant. The Patriots also have brought in free agents Lewis Sanders and Jason Webster. Returning on the other corner is Ellis Hobbs, who was last seen getting beat for the winning touchdown in Super Bowl XLII by Plaxico Burress. The Patriots drafted two corners — Terrence Wheatley, in the second round, and Jonathan Wilhite, in the fourth. Strong safety Rodney Harrison turned 35 in December and is starting to show his age. James Sanders, who started 15 games last year, returns at free safety. Brandon Meriweather, the team's first-round pick in '07, will be counted on to contribute more this season.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Stephen Gostkowski led all AFC kickers in scoring, with 137 points, while making 21 of 24 field-goal attempts. But punter Chris Hanson ranked only 14th of 16 in the AFC with a net average of 36.1. Hobbs was seventh in the league in kickoff returns with a 26.0-yard average, helped by an NFL-record, 108-yard touchdown runback against the Jets. Fifth-round draft choice Matthew Slater returned three kickoffs for scores at UCLA. He's the son of Jackie Slater, a Hall of Famer who played offensive tackle for the Rams for 20 years. Reliable Lonie Paxton is in his ninth season in New England as the long snapper.

Rating: 7

INTANGIBLES

The big question is whether the Patriots will be demoralized, or energized, by their near-miss at making history. The likelihood is it will be a motivating factor.

RATING: Plus 1

—Jim Donaldson

2007 RESULTS

Record: 18-1

Sep. 9	at N.Y. Jets	38-14
Sep. 16	SAN DIEGO	38-14
Sep. 23	BUFFALO	38- 7
Oct. 1	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	34-13
Oct. 7	CLEVELAND	34-17
Oct. 14	at Dallas	48-27
Oct. 21	at Miami	49-28
Oct. 28	WASHINGTON	52- 7
Nov. 4	at Indianapolis	24-20
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	at Buffalo	56-10
Nov. 25	PHILADELPHIA	31-28
Dec. 3	at Baltimore (Mon.)	27-24
Dec. 9	PITTSBURGH	34-13
Dec. 16	N.Y. JETS	20-10
Dec. 23	MIAMI	28- 7
Dec. 29	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	38-35
Jan. 12	JACKSONVILLE	31-20
Jan. 20	SAN DIEGO	21-12
Feb. 3	N.Y. Giants	14-17

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	BALTIMORE (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 17	at Tampa Bay	8:00
Aug. 22	PHILADELPHIA (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at N.Y. GIANTS	7:00
Sep. 7	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Sep. 14	at N.Y. Jets	4:15
Sep. 21	MIAMI	1:00
Sep. 28	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 5	at San Francisco	1:15
Oct. 12	at San Diego	5:15
Oct. 20	DENVER (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 26	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Nov. 2	at Indianapolis	8:15
Nov. 9	BUFFALO	1:00
Nov. 13	N.Y. JETS (Thu.)	8:15
Nov. 23	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 30	PITTSBURGH	4:15
Dec. 7	at Seattle	5:15
Dec. 14	at Oakland	1:15
Dec. 21	ARIZONA	1:00
Dec. 28	at Buffalo	1:00

NEW YORK JETS

2007 RECORD: 4-12 | STADIUM: Meadowlands, 80,062, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

AFC EAST | www.newyorkjets.com

AT A GLANCE

TRAINING CAMP:
Weeb Ewbank Hall; Hempstead, NY

COACH:
Eric Mangini, 3rd year with Jets and as NFL head coach (14-19)

PRESIDENT:
Jay Cross

GENERAL MANAGER:
Mike Tannenbaum

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Terry Bradway

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL: JoJo Wooden

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Joey Clinkscales

COORDINATOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Jason Mandolesi

SENIOR CONSULTANT:
Jesse Kaye

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Brian Schottenheimer	Offensive coordinator	10	3
Brian Daboll	Quarterbacks	9	2
Jimmy Raye	Running backs	32	3
Bill Callahan	*Offensive line	10	1
Mike Devlin	Tight ends/asst. line	7	3
Noel Mazzone	Receivers	3	3
Mike Bloomgren	Off. quality control	2	2
Brian Smith	Off. quality control	2	2
Bob Sutton	Defensive coordinator	9	9
Dan Quinn	Defensive line	9	2
Bryan Cox	Asst. defensive line	3	3
Jim Herrmann	Linebackers	3	3
Jerome Henderson	Secondary	3	3
Andy Dickerson	Def. quality control	5	4
Kevin O'Dea	Special teams coordinator	15	1
Ben Kotwica	Def. QC/asst. ST	2	2
Sal Alosi	Strength & Cond.	7	6
Rick Lyle	Strength & Cond.	3	3
Mike Jones	Strength & Cond.	2	2
Teddy Atlas	Special assistant	2	2

*Assistant head coach/offense

Change in the Air After Difficult 2007 Season

The Jets went from winning 10 games and reaching the playoffs in 2006 to just four wins last season, hampered by a struggling offense and myriad players ill-fitted for Eric Mangini's 3-4 defense. So the Jets brought in no fewer than five new starters (three on offense) this offseason and plan on making a major upswing before moving into a new stadium in 2009 and charging season ticket holders the appropriate premium. Despite what ownership says, this is an important season for the Jets and their coaching and front-office staff. Are the Jets the surprising success from two years ago or are they last year's laughingstock?

COACHING

Mangini has admittedly gone through serious growing pains in his first two seasons as a head coach. Coming in as a wunderkind in 2006, Mangini showed his Bill Belichick training by putting the Jets through their toughest camp ever — tiring out and ticking off veterans but winning them over with a 10-6 record. That goodwill was lost last season as the Jets collapsed into a 4-12 quagmire. There was also criticism that Mangini was too insistent on making players fit his new system rather than designing a system that played to the strength of his existing roster. The third-year coach, however, is planning on making changes. Mangini has always been a little distant from his players, but vowed that players will have more of a say in team matters in 2008. He plans on soliciting player input and plans on increasing the dialogue between staff and players.

RATING: 6.5

QUARTERBACKS

A year ago, Chad Pennington went into training camp as the starter. Yet he lost the job midway through the season to Kellen Clemens. Only Clemens proved less than effective and faces an open competition with Pennington for the starting job this year. That doesn't speak well of what the Jets think of Clemens, who completed just 52 percent of his passes and threw 10 interceptions. Pennington threw twice as many scores and completed 69 percent of his passes during his time under center but showed poor decision-making and the Jets' passing game ranked just 25th in the league. Fifth-rounder Erik Ainge will sit and watch.

RATING: 6.5

RUNNING BACKS

The trade for Thomas Jones was supposed to provide the Jets with a much coveted feature back. While Jones was reliable, he rarely proved to be a gamebreaker or even playmaker. Jones totaled 1,119 yards but managed just one rushing touchdown and averaged a paltry 3.6 yards a carry. To be fair, that wasn't all Jones fault. The offensive line struggled the entire season and failed to produce

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
OG Alan Faneca

The Jets targeted him as their top priority this offseason. They need to shore up their offensive line in both run blocking and pass protection. Faneca should help with both and tutor the Jets' younger linemen.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
RB Jesse Chatman, TE Bubba Franks, S Artrell Hawkins, DT Kris Jenkins, LB Calvin Pace, FB Tony Richardson, T/G Damien Woody, CB Andre Woolfolk

KEY LOSS:
LB Jonathan Vilma (7/7)*
Despite his problems adjusting to the 3-4, Vilma was a quality player. After expending a first-round pick on Vilma, the Jets get back just a fourth rounder — with a chance for a second rounder next year if incentives are reached.

OTHER LOSSES :
OG Adrien Clarke (14/14), OT Anthony Clement (16/16), S Erik Coleman (15/4), CB Andre Dyson (9/0), LB Victor Hobson (16/14), WR Justin McCareins (16/6), NT Dewayne Robertson (16/15), TE Sean Ryan (10/1), C Wade Smith (14/0), QB Marques Tuiasosopo (0/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 9 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

any holes, which is why the Jets' rushing attack averaged just 106 yards per game — 19th in the NFL. Leon Washington (5.0 yards per carry) will continue to provide a spark as a change-of-pace back, while free-agent signees Jesse Chatman and fullback Tony Richardson should provide depth and an improvement to the Jets' blocking.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

Jerricho Cotchery improved again during his fourth season in New York, amassing a team-leading 82 catches for 1,130 yards. The problem is, with just two touchdowns in 2007 after catching six the year before, Cotchery is becoming a 1,000-yard possession receiver. Laveranues Coles had another adventurous offseason arguing about money with the front office, but seems ready to resume his career in New York after the Jets guaranteed Coles the $11 million remaining on his contract through 2009. Former college quarterback Brad Smith continues to intrigue the Jets with his "slash" capabilities, totaling 325 yards on 32 catches.

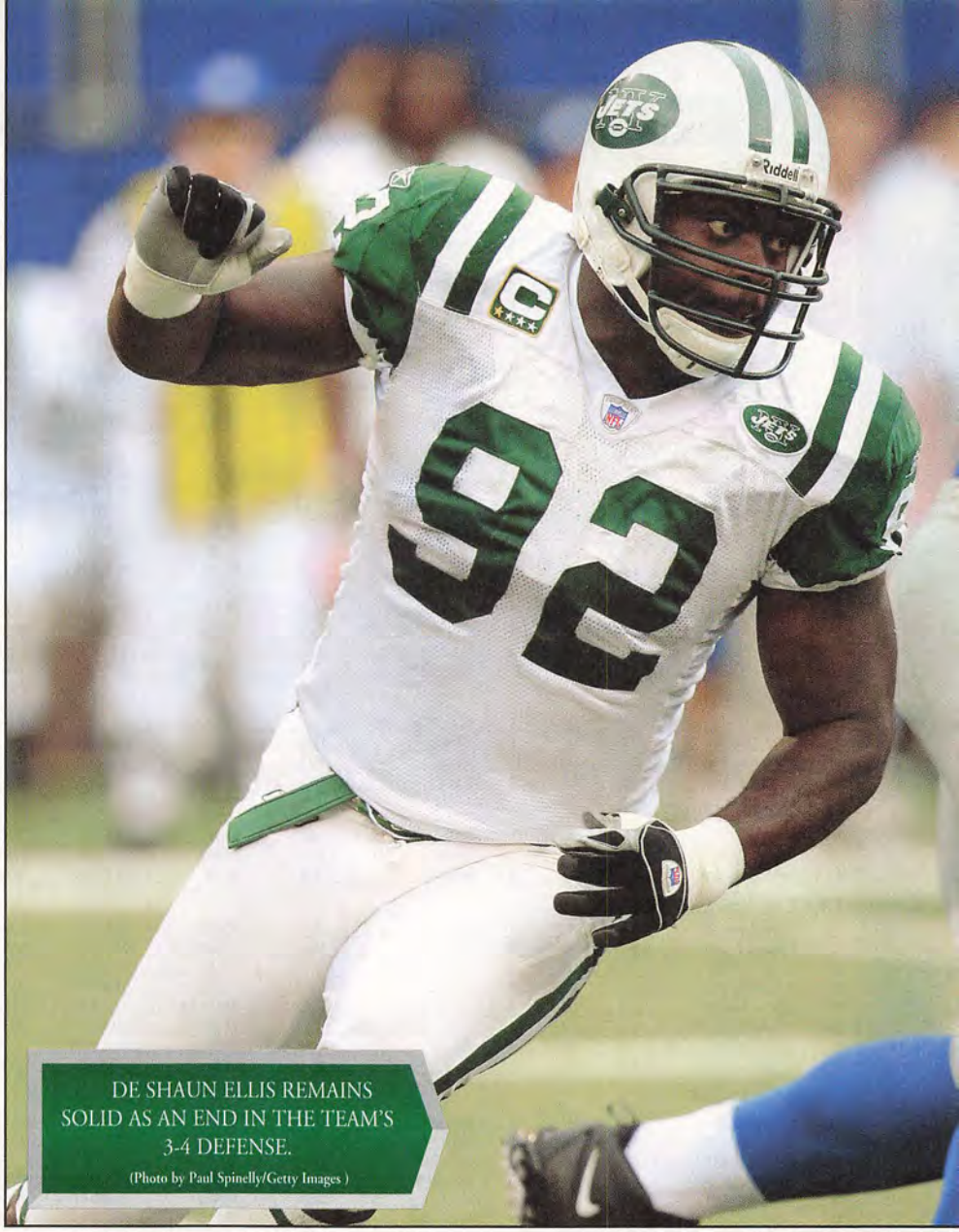
Tight end Chris Baker keeps improving, with a career-high 41 catches and three touchdowns and Bubba Franks was signed as his backup. However, rookie Dustin Keller, who the Jets traded to get at the end of the first round, could get significant playing time.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

One word to describe this unit in 2007 — awful. That's why the Jets ran to make left guard Alan Faneca the highest paid lineman in the NFL, signing the 31-year-old to a five-year, $40 million deal with $21 million guaranteed. A few days later the Jets threw $25.5 million over five years to veteran Damien Woody, slotting him at right tackle. A day later the team cut tackle Anthony Clement. If that isn't making a statement then what is? The Jets gave up 53 sacks last season and their rushing attack struggled to average 106 yards per game. Those numbers will likely improve with the additions of Faneca and Woody, along with the development of left tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson and center Nick Mangold, both in their third year — especially with Faneca playing in between them. Brandon Moore returns at right guard but outside of fifth-year tackle Wayne Hunter, the Jets have almost no experienced backups.

RATING: 7



DE SHAUN ELLIS REMAINS SOLID AS AN END IN THE TEAM'S 3-4 DEFENSE.

(Photo by Paul Spinelly/Getty Images)

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

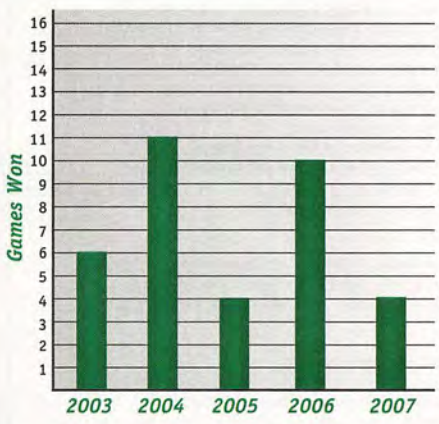
Opponents racked up 134.8 yards a game on the ground, 29th in the league last season, so the Jets traded third- and fifth-round picks to Carolina for Kris Jenkins, who at 6-4 and 335 pounds takes up a lot of space and will keep blockers off the Jets' linebackers. Jenkins is better suited at nose tackle than Dewayne Robertson — who didn't fit in the 3-4 and was traded to Denver. Jenkins played in a 4-3 for the Panthers so there will be an adjustment for him in New York. Sione Pouha, who was given a contract extension, will back up at the nose and is considered the future at the position. Jenkins will be flanked by ends Shaun Ellis (five sacks) and Kenyon Coleman (1.5 sacks). C.J. Mosley provides depth at end but the Jets will struggle with their pass rush.

RATING: 6.5

LINEBACKERS

Jonathan Vilma, once a star of the defense, faltered once Mangini switched to a 3-4. The same thing happened to Victor Hobson. However, the change never bothered David Harris, who led the Jets with 126 tackles and five sacks as a rookie last season. That led to Vilma being traded to New Orleans, Hobson bolting as a free agent to rival New England and Harris being handed a starting job as middle inside linebacker next to veteran Eric Barton (73 tackles.) As part of the off-season spending spree, the Jets added outside linebacker Calvin Pace, who produced his best season with Arizona last year with 6.5 sacks. Bryan Thomas will likely start on the right side but he'll have to fight off first-round pick

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2004, 2006*

Jets Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
86	**Baker, Chris (TE)**	**6-3**	**258**	**7**	**Michigan State**	**15/15**	**D3 02**	**D3 NYJ 02**	**Despite annual improvement, he'll lose catches to rookie Dustin Keller.**
18	Ball, David	6-0	197	1	New Hampshire	0/0	FA 07	CFA CHI 07	Started on Bears practice squad, finished on Jets practice squad.
87	***Coles, Laveranues**	**5-11**	**193**	**9**	**Florida State**	**12/10**	**T,WSH 05**	**D3 NYJ 00**	**Slowed by injuries, but made 52 of his 55 receptions in just eight games.**
89	**Cotchery, Jerricho (KR)**	**6-0**	**207**	**5**	**North Carolina State**	**15/15**	**D4 04**	**D4 NYJ 04**	**He can make the catches, but the Jets need to find him in the end zone.**
19	Davis, Chris	5-10	180	2	Wake Forest	2/0	FA 07	FA NYJ 07	Will need an amazing training camp to stay.
85	Dearth, James (TE/LS)	6-4	270	8	Tarleton State	16/0	FA 01	D6 CLV 99	Long snapper is one position the Jets don't worry about.
88	Franks, Bubba (TE)	6-6	265	9	Miami	8/1	FA 08	D1 GB 00	As a backup, makes $1 million more than Baker. Interesting.
14	Henry, Marcus	6-4	207	R	Kansas	0/0	D6 08	D6 NYJ 08	Stands almost 6-2 and the Jets are always looking for a tall target.
81	Keller, Dustin (TE)	6-2	248	R	Purdue	0/0	D1 08	D1 NYJ 08	A reach as a first-rounder, but he will be involved in the passing game.
82	Pociask, Jason (TE)	6-2	259	3	Wisconsin	4/0	D5 06	D5 NYJ 06	A solid blocker, but not an offensive threat.
16	Smith, Brad (QB/RB)	6-2	210	3	Missouri	16/9	D4 06	D4 NYJ 06	Has worked and earned his way in as the No. 3 receiver.
83	*Stuckey, Chansi	6-0	196	2	Clemson	0/0	D7 07	D7 NYJ 07	Spent nearly all of 2007 on injured reserve.
15	Wright, Wallace	6-1	191	2	North Carolina	16/1	FA 06	CFA NYJ 06	An excellent special teams player who provides depth at receiver.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
72	Bender, Jacob (T)	6-6	315	2	Nicholls State	2/0	D6 07	D6 NYJ 07	Played in two games, but there may not be room for him as a backup.
66	**Faneca, Alan (G)**	**6-5**	**307**	**11**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**UFA,PITT 08**	**D1 PITT 98**	**Sure the Jets overpaid, but in this case it's well worth it.**
60	**Ferguson, D'Brickashaw (T)**	**6-6**	**312**	**3**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 NYJ 06**	**Hasn't played like a No. 4 pick should, but by no means a bust.**
71	Garner, Nate (T)	6-7	318	R	Arkansas	0/0	D7 08	D7 NYJ 08	A better run-blocker than pass-blocker.
78	Hunter, Wayne (T)	6-5	303	4	Hawaii	0/0	FA 08	D3 SEA 03	One of the few experienced backups the Jets have on the line.
74	**Mangold, Nick (C)**	**6-4**	**300**	**3**	**Ohio State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 NYJ 06**	**He keeps getting better and could emerge as one of the league's best.**
68	Montgomery, Will (G)	6-3	312	3	Virginia Tech	7/2	FA 07	D7 CARO 06	Started one game last year and six for his career, will back up Faneca.
65	**Moore, Brandon (G)**	**6-3**	**295**	**6**	**Illinois**	**16/16**	**FA 03**	**CFA NYJ 02**	**Still flies under the radar, but a great success story after going undrafted.**
76	Oldenburg, Clint (T)	6-5	300	1	Colorado State	2/0	FA 07	D5 NE 07	Might not stick this year.
75	Turner, Robert (G)	6-4	308	1	New Mexico	2/0	FA 07	CFA NYJ 07	Good size, but Jets have one too many guards.
67	**Woody, Damien (T)**	**6-3**	**335**	**10**	**Boston College**	**13/8**	**UFA,DET 08**	**D1 NE 99**	**The team's biggest gamble in the offseason, but he'll produce.**
RUNNING BACKS									
22	Chatman, Jesse	5-8	225	6	Eastern Washington	14/6	UFA,MIA 08	CFA SD 02	A dependable backup who will touch the ball on occasion.
20	**Jones, Thomas**	**5-10**	**215**	**9**	**Virginia**	**16/14**	**T,CHI 07**	**D1 ARIZ 00**	**Proved capable of getting the Jets to the end zone, just not into it.**
49	**Richardson, Tony (FB)**	**6-1**	**238**	**14**	**Auburn**	**14/3**	**UFA,MINN 08**	**CFA DALL 94**	**Veteran will really improve the Jets' blocking schemes.**
29	Washington, Leon	5-8	202	3	Florida State	16/4	D4 06	D4 NYJ 06	The little guy who could, proving all his doubters wrong.
QUARTERBACKS									
9	Ainge, Erik	6-5	221	R	Tennessee	0/0	D5 08	D5 NYJ 08	Will sit patiently behind Clemens and Pennington, but is he part of the future?
11	Clemens, Kellen	6-2	223	3	Oregon	10/8	D2 06	D2 NYJ 06	His work didn't impress and may have cost him a future in N.Y.
10	**Pennington, Chad**	**6-3**	**225**	**8**	**Marshall**	**9/8**	**D1 00**	**D1 NYJ 00**	**Probably the favorite to become the starter — again.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
98	Brown, Kareem (E)	6-4	295	1	Miami	1/0	W,NE 07	D4 NE 07	A little undersized and the Jets need to beef up this unit.
93	**Coleman, Kenyon (E)**	**6-5**	**295**	**6**	**UCLA**	**16/14**	**UFA,DALL 07**	**D5 OAK 02**	**Will likely start at end, especially after drafting Vernon Gholston.**
70	DeVito, Mike (E)	6-3	298	2	Maine	7/0	CFA 07	CFA NYJ 07	A solid backup who moved up the depth chart this offseason.
92	**Ellis, Shaun (E)**	**6-5**	**285**	**9**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 NYJ 00**	**As always, never spectacular, but never a bad player either.**
77	**Jenkins, Kris (T)**	**6-4**	**349**	**8**	**Maryland**	**16/15**	**T,CARO 08**	**D2 CARO 01**	**He'll take up space and blockers better than Dewayne Robertson.**
95	Johnson, Thomas (T)	6-2	298	3	Middle Tennessee State	0/0	FA 08	CFA DALL 05	Playing a 3-4, there may not be enough room for him.
69	Mosley, C.J. (E)	6-2	314	4	Missouri	14/2	T,MINN 06	D6 MINN 05	Another big body to work into the rotation.
91	Pouha, Sione (NT)	6-3	325	4	Utah	16/1	D3 05	D3 NYJ 05	Maybe a year or two away from starting on the nose.
LINEBACKERS									
50	**Barton, Eric (I)**	**6-2**	**245**	**10**	**Maryland**	**16/15**	**UFA,OAK 04**	**D5 OAK 99**	**The Jets have looked for replacements, but he's managed to stick.**
96	Bowens, David (O)	6-3	265	9	Western Illinois	16/2	UFA,MIA 07	D5 DEN 99	Provides a good pass rush off the bench.
58	Chatham, Matt (O)	6-4	250	9	South Dakota	9/0	UFA,NE 06	CFA STL 99	A hard-working reserve type that Eric Mangini loves.
56	**Gholston, Vernon (O)**	**6-3**	**264**	**R**	**Ohio State**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 NYJ 08**	**Should step in as a starter, if not right away, then by the end of the year.**
52	**Harris, David (I)**	**6-2**	**243**	**2**	**Michigan**	**16/9**	**D2 07**	**D2 NYJ 07**	**Developed quickly as a tackler and forced a trade of Jonathan Vilma.**
55	Kassell, Brad (I)	6-3	242	7	North Texas	16/1	UFA,TENN 06	CFA TENN 02	Same as Chatham.
94	Murrell, Marques (O)	6-2	246	2	Appalachian State	4/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 07	An intriguing young talent who might find a place.
97	**Pace, Calvin (O)**	**6-4**	**270**	**6**	**Wake Forest**	**16/16**	**UFA,ARZ 08**	**D1 ARIZ 03**	**The Jets see a huge upside in him, but why didn't anyone else?**
53	*Spencer, Cody (O)	6-2	245	4	North Texas	1/0	FA 06	D6 OAK 04	Will have to outplay Barton to earn a spot on the outside.
99	Thomas, Bryan (O)	6-4	266	7	UAB	16/14	D1 02	D1 NYJ 02	Has never developed like the team had hoped; could be on the way out.
57	*Trusnik, Jason	6-4	250	2	Ohio Northern	6/0	FA 07	CFA NYJ 07	Will contribute on special teams, his key to making the team.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
36	Barrett, David (CB)	5-10	195	9	Arkansas	16/9	UFA,ARIZ 04	D4 ARIZ 00	A nickel and dime specialist who can start in a pinch.
23	Bing, Darnell (S)	6-2	230	2	Southern Cal	0/0	FA 08	D4 OAK 06	Probably won't crack the roster.
30	Coleman, Drew (CB)	5-9	175	3	Texas Christian	11/0	D6 06	D6 NYJ 06	Never panned out as a starter, he'll back up on the right side.
27	**Elam, Abram (S)**	**6-0**	**207**	**3**	**Kent State**	**13/8**	**FA 07**	**CFA MIA 05**	**Signed at the start of the year; started eight games at free safety.**
26	Hawkins, Artrell (S)	5-10	195	10	Cincinnati	0/0	FA 08	D2 CIN 98	A veteran who should provide some wisdom to a young unit.
44	*Ihedigbo, James	6-1	202	2	Massachusetts	0/0	CFA 07	CFA NYJ 07	Spent the season on injured reserve; may not be a spot for him.
34	Lowery, Dwight (CB)	5-11	201	R	San Jose State	0/0	D4 08	D4 NYJ 08	Will be groomed at corner, but will get more work as a return man.
22	***Miller, Justin (CB/KR)**	**5-10**	**196**	**4**	**Clemson**	**2/0**	**D2 05**	**D2 NYJ 05**	**Lost a year to injury, but will reclaim his starting job.**
31	Poteat, Hank (CB)	5-10	195	7	Pittsburgh	16/9	FA 06	D3 PITT 00	Fits very well in the Mangini system.
24	**Revis, Darrelle (CB/PR)**	**5-11**	**204**	**2**	**Pittsburgh**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 NYJ 07**	**A star in the making and he doesn't have far to go.**
25	**Rhodes, Kerry (S)**	**6-3**	**210**	**4**	**Louisville**	**16/16**	**D4 05**	**D4 NYJ 05**	**He won't have to wait for a Pro Bowl spot much longer.**
33	Smith, Eric (S)	6-1	209	3	Michigan State	15/4	D3 06	D3 NYJ 06	A special teamer through and through.
38	Woolfolk, Andre (CB)	6-2	197	5	Oklahoma	0/0	FA 08	D1 TENN 03	Could be kept around because this unit needs depth.
SPECIALISTS									
7	Graham, Ben (P)	6-5	235	4	None	15/0	CFA 05	CFA NYJ 05	Once the golden boy, he's been tarnished by inconsistency.
3	Kapinos, Jeremy (P)	6-1	235	1	Penn State	1/0	FA 07	CFA NYJ 07	Will compete for the starting job and it's not a token battle.
1	Nugent, Mike (K)	5-9	188	4	Ohio State	16/0	D2 05	D2 NYJ 05	Improved on kickoffs and remains solid from 40 yards and in.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs David Clowney (1, Virginia Tech), Paul Raymond (Brown); OGs Stanley Daniels (1, Washington), Shawn McMackin (Hofstra); QB Brent Ratliff (1, Utah); RBs Jehuu Caulcrick (Michigan State), Danny Woodhead (Chadron State); FB Justin Valentine (Minnesota); DEs Bryan Mattison (Iowa), Ropati Pitoitua (Washington State); DT Matt McChesney (1, Colorado); LB Kenwin Cummings (Wingate); S Nate Lyles (S); DB Etienne Boulay (CFL, New Hampshire).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. An emphasis on making plays with no excuses. The Jets lost seven games by seven points or fewer last season, mostly because they failed to make plays with the game on the line — on offense and defense.
2. A quick start or bust. The Jets open at Miami, host New England and travel to San Diego in the first three weeks. That could just as easily translate into an 0-3 record as it could 2-1.
3. The Jets brought in former Nebraska and Raiders coach Bill Callahan as assistant head coach on offense, hoping to rev up the running attack. Oakland led the NFL in rushing in 2000 when Callahan was the Raiders' offensive coordinator.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Eric Mangini

On the surface, a 4-12 season should put coach Eric Mangini and general manager Mike Tannenbaum on the hot seat for 2008, especially in the wake of the Jets doling out $140 million this off-season to upgrade the team through free agency. Yet, according to owner Woody Johnson, no matter what happens this season, neither Mangini nor Tannenbaum will be fired and both will be back in 2009 because Johnson believes in the building process the pair started in 2006.

The Jets spread around a guaranteed $63 million in free agency and trades this off-season — signing guard Alan Faneca, linebacker Calvin Pace, tackle Damien Woody and trading for defensive tackle Kris Jenkins.

The moves were viewed as desperate by outsiders, an attempt by Mangini and Tannenbaum to try and save their jobs. The moves were also criticized because success in today's NFL comes through the draft and not with aged, high-priced free agents.

That criticism is why Johnson came out with the public vote of confidence.

Now, we'll see how he reacts if the money spent fails to result in significant improvement on the field.

Vernon Gholston, a defensive end in college who projects as an outside linebacker and gives the Jets their best pass-rushing prospect since John Abraham. The linebacker corps is very thin, though, with veteran David Bowens and role players Brad Kassell and Matt Chatham as the primary backups.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The Jets traded up 11 spots in last year's draft to snatch up cornerback Darrelle Revis and the move paid off as Revis started every game and produced 87 tackles — second on the team — three interceptions and 17 passes defended while showing incredible coverage skills. Justin Miller is the likely starter at the other corner, but he's coming off knee surgery that cost him all but two games last season. Kerry Rhodes, the team's best playmaker who the team recently locked up with a long-term extension, continues to excel at strong safety with 10 passes defended and a team-leading five picks. Abram Elam, signed in September after his release from Dallas, was a find at free safety because his being skilled at tackling and coverage freed up Rhodes to be more aggressive. Drew Coleman and David Barrett will continue in nickel and dime coverages and safety Eric Smith will work his way into some playing time as well.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kevin O'Dea comes in to replace longtime special teams guru Mike Westhoff and has some big shoes to fill considering Westhoff's experience and the love Jets players showed him over the seasons. Leon Washington continues to excel as a return man, averaging 27.5 yards on kickoffs with a league-leading three touchdowns. Washington also averaged 9.2 yards on punt returns, but Revis and Dwight Lowery will get a serious look there. Mike Nugent was solid as usual, connecting on 22 of 24 field-goal attempts of less than 40 yards and six of eight between 40 and 49 yards. Distance is still something of an issue for Nugent, who hit just one of four from 50 yards out or longer (it was for 50 yards), but he's about as dependable as they come. Punter Ben Graham slid last season, with a 43.3-yard average and a 36.6-yard net average and could be competing for a job with Jeremy Kapinos, who started the next-to-last game in 2007. Forever dependable James Dearth returns as the long snapper.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

With the addition of several expensive veterans through trades (Jenkins) and free agency (Faneca, Woody, Franks) the Jets are expecting an immediate impact and a return to double-digit victories. That could be a reach if the Jets don't solve their problems at quarterback and with the offense in general.

RATING: Even

—Peter Zellen

2007 RESULTS

Record: 4-12

Sep. 9	NEW ENGLAND	14-38
Sep. 16	at Baltimore	13-20
Sep. 23	MIAMI	31-28
Sep. 30	at Buffalo	14-17
Oct. 7	at N.Y. Giants	24-35
Oct. 14	PHILADELPHIA	9-16
Oct. 21	at Cincinnati	31-38
Oct. 28	BUFFALO	3-13
Nov. 4	WASHINGTON (OT)	20-23
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	PITTSBURGH (OT)	19-16
Nov. 22	at Dallas (Thu.)	3-34
Dec. 2	at Miami	40-13
Dec. 9	CLEVELAND	18-24
Dec. 16	at New England	10-20
Dec. 23	at Tennessee	6-10
Dec. 30	KANSAS CITY (OT)	13-10

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	at Cleveland (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 16	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	N.Y. GIANTS (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 28	at Philadelphia (Thu.)	6:30
Sep. 7	at Miami	1:00
Sep. 14	NEW ENGLAND	4:15
Sep. 22	at San Diego (Mon.)	5:30
Sep. 28	ARIZONA	1:00
Oct. 5	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 12	CINCINNATI	1:00
Oct. 19	at Oakland	1:15
Oct. 26	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Nov. 2	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov. 9	ST. LOUIS	1:00
Nov. 13	at New England (Thu.)	8:15
Nov. 23	at Tennessee	12:00
Nov. 30	DENVER	1:00
Dec. 7	at San Francisco	1:05
Dec. 14	BUFFALO	1:00
Dec. 21	at Seattle	1:05
Dec. 28	MIAMI	1:00

AFC NORTH

Is It Cleveland's Turn to Capture Division Title?

A different team has claimed this physical division's title three years in a row. Could it be the Cleveland Browns' turn?

The league must think so. After a 10-6 season that climaxed with six Browns earning spots in the Pro Bowl – ending the team's six-year drought without an all-star – the NFL scheduled the Browns for five prime-time games.

That marquee schedule matches Pittsburgh for most prime-time appearances. The division title could hinge on the rivals' two meetings. Pittsburgh hopes so. The Steelers have beaten the Browns nine games in a row and 15 of the last 16 meetings.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Another dismal year on offense finally cost Brian Billick his job. The Ravens replaced their nine-year coach with former Philadelphia assistant coach John Harbaugh, who made his mark on special teams.

Harbaugh hired Cam Cameron as coordinator to revamp the offense. Cameron's vertical passing game needed a big arm, and the Ravens found it in first-round draft pick Joe Flacco, a 6-6 flamethrower that faced minor competition at Delaware. The defense will have to carry this team once again until Flacco gets up to speed.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Defense and off-field turmoil have been the bane of coach Marvin Lewis, and things didn't improve much in his sixth off-season. The Bengals lost three of their best defensive players in free agency and receiver Chad Johnson engaged in a divisive, if unsuccessful, campaign to be traded.

Lewis responded by drafting a handful of defensive players and three receivers. He also signed two potential defensive starters in free agency and another receiver. The end result could be that his offense isn't what it once was, but his defense may be just as bad.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

In the past three years, the Browns have made more trades than any team. Trader Phil Savage, the general manager, lived up to his reputation by swinging major deals to upgrade the team's maligned defensive front with veterans Corey Williams and Shaun Rogers.

Savage quick-fixed the offensive line the year before and it became the catalyst for a revived offense that collectively had a stunning breakthrough season. Savage added to it by signing receiver Donte Stallworth in free agency. All of which has coach Romeo Crennel and his team thinking playoffs – and beyond – this year.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

After losing four of their last five games, including one at home in the playoffs, the Steelers saw their best player — Alan Faneca — on a debilitating offensive line leave in free agency. Not much was done to strengthen what is now considered the team's weakness.

Coach Mike Tomlin tried to reassure newly re-signed quarterback Ben Roethlisberger by adding two big weapons in the draft – Illinois running back Rashard Mendenhall and Texas receiver Limas Sweed. Tomlin's defense ranked No. 1 in his first season as coach. It will have to duplicate that for the Steelers to repeat as division champs.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Can the Steelers survive the NFL's toughest schedule?

Fourteen of their 16 games are against teams that had winning records the previous year. They play four division-winners and five games in prime time. If the Steelers make it through that meat-grinder, they're liable to be spent for the playoffs.

2. Who will start the year at quarterback for the Ravens and who will finish it?

First draft pick Joe Flacco would have to be extraordinary to step off the Delaware campus and into the huddle for Game 1. That leaves the bulk of the season to Kyle Boller. Unless Boller warms to Baltimore's new offense, Flacco could be forced in by season's end.

3. What impact do the Browns need from new defensive linemen Corey Williams and Shaun Rogers?

Since everything starts up front, they expect the substantial beefing-up on the D-line to trickle down to the linebackers and secondary. A year ago, the Browns improved 22 notches in offensive ranking. A similar upgrade on defense would put the team in the thick of the conference elite.

4. Were the Bengals right in refusing to trade Chad Johnson?

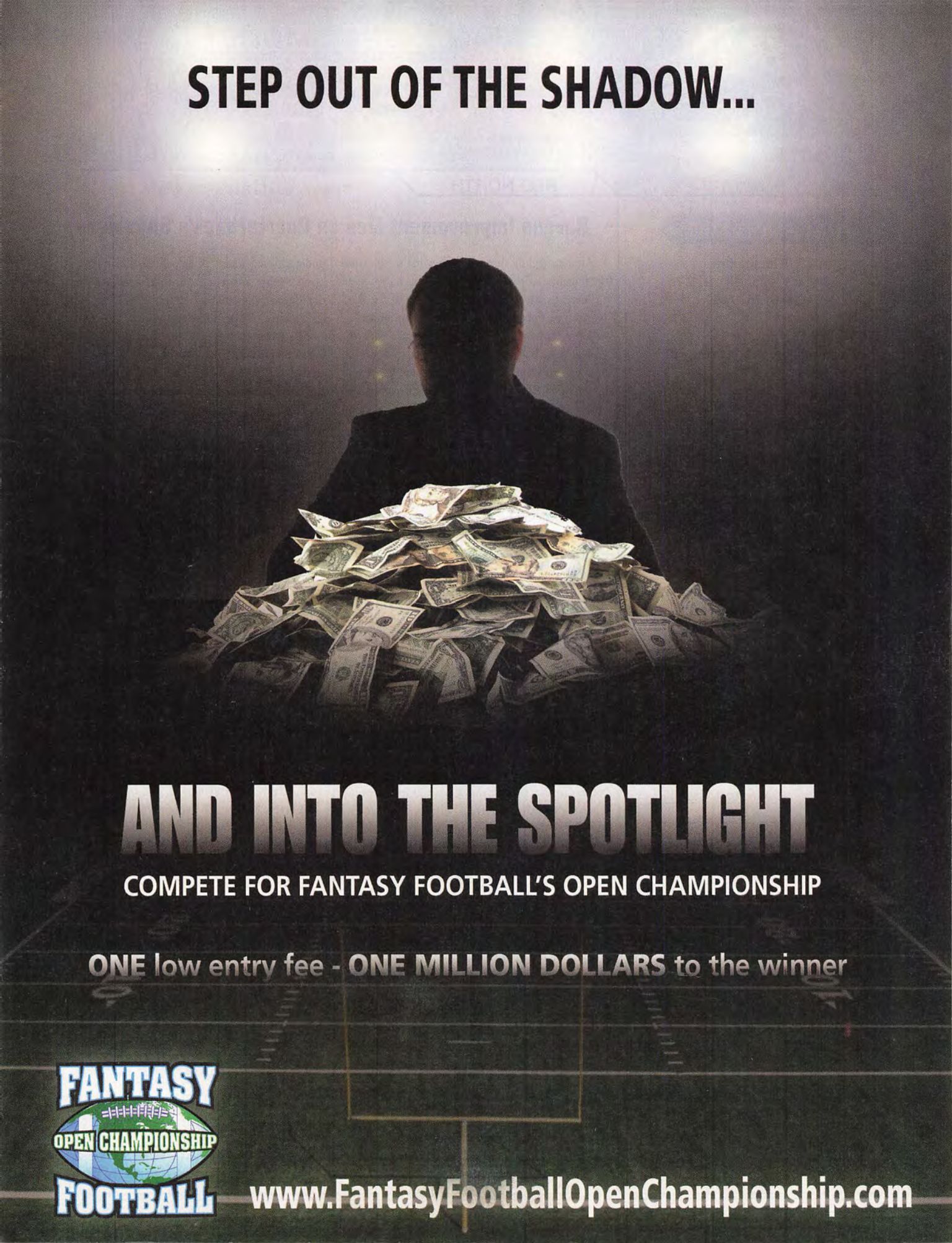
Probably not. Johnson turned 30 this year and spent the off-season ostracizing himself from his teammates. Getting two high draft picks for him and using them on defense would have served the team better than stubbornly teaching him a lesson.

5. Are Willie Parker's days over as the Steelers' feature back?

The 209-pound Parker should not reach his averages of the past two years of 329 carries and 1,405 yards. Coaches intend to experiment with a two-back rushing tandem of Parker and first-round rookie pick Rashard Mendenhall.

—Tony Grossi

STEP OUT OF THE SHADOW...



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BALTIMORE RAVENS

2007 RECORD: 5-11 | STADIUM: M&T Bank Stadium, 70,107, Sportexe | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

AFC NORTH | www.baltimoreravens.com

AT A GLANCE

1 Winning Drive
Owings Mills, MD 21117
(410) 701-4000

TRAINING CAMP:
McDaniel College; Westminster, MD

COACH:
John Harbaugh, 1st year with Ravens and as NFL head coach

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER:
Ozzie Newsome

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
George Kokonis

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Eric DeCosta

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Cam Cameron	Offensive coordinator	10	1
Hue Jackson	Quarterbacks	8	1
Jim Hostler	Receivers	8	1
Wilbert Montgomery	Running backs	12	1
John Matsko	Offensive line	17	1
Andy Moeller	Asst. line	1	1
Wade Harman	Tight ends	12	10
Craig Ver Steeg	Off. quality control	1	1
Rex Ryan	Defensive coordinator	12	10
Clarence Brooks	Defensive line	16	4
Greg Mattison	Linebackers	1	1
Mike Pettine	Outside linebackers	7	7
Chuck Pagano	Secondary	7	1
Jerry Rosburg	Special teams coordinator	8	1
Marwan Maalouf	Special teams asst.	4	1
Bob Rogucki	Strength & Cond.	1	1
John Dunn	Strength & Cond.	24	1

Ravens Improvement Lies on Quarterback's Shoulders

After struggling through their worst season since the franchise's first in 1996, the Ravens have chosen a different path to get back to the top of the AFC North: Fire the coach, but keep the team intact.

John Harbaugh, a long-time assistant with the Philadelphia Eagles, brings a more stern approach to a veteran team that lacked discipline last season under Brian Billick. Under Harbaugh, players will no longer go home at night during training camp and practices will be tougher.

This is a much-needed wake-up call for the Ravens, who went from division champions in 2006 to last place in 2007. Expecting to return 20 of 22 starters, the Ravens are hoping a new coach and a new mindset will be the difference in turning this team around.

"There are three important things in putting together a football team: No. 1 is the team, the second-most important thing is the team and third-most important thing is the team," Harbaugh said. "We're going to stick with that through and through, beginning to end, and that's what it is all about."

Like most seasons, the biggest question mark for the Ravens is at quarterback. Steve McNair surprisingly retired on April 17, saying his banged-up body couldn't endure another season.

Without McNair, the Ravens will have to go with an unproven starting quarterback this season. New offensive coordinator Cam Cameron, whose job is to revitalize a Ravens' offense that has finished in the bottom half of the NFL in eight of the past nine seasons, will have to decide between Kyle Boller, Troy Smith and Joe Flacco, the Ravens' first-round pick out of Delaware.

"We said all along that the quarterback job is going to be an open competition," Harbaugh said. "Whoever gives us the best chance to win, I think is going to be our quarterback."

COACHING

Only a few months into his new job, Harbaugh is slowly gaining the attention of his players with his no-nonsense approach. There are questions whether Harbaugh can handle being a head coach because he has never been a coordinator. But Harbaugh has surrounded himself with an impressive coaching staff. His main focus now is changing the energy around a franchise that hasn't won a playoff game since the 2001 season.

Cameron takes over an offense that consistently underachieved under Billick. Expect Cameron to bring a more attacking and unpredictable style to the Ravens, who ranked 24th in the NFL in scoring last season (17.2 points per game).

The Ravens achieved some continuity by keeping Rex Ryan as defensive coordinator. Injuries devastated the defense last season and limited Ryan's aggressive schemes. This could be the season when the Ravens are a top five defense once again.

RATING: 7

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
QB Joe Flacco

With a big frame and even bigger arm, Flacco is the Ravens' quarterback of the future, becoming the highest drafted quarterback in team history. The bigger question is when will he be the quarterback of the present?

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Brendon Ayanbadejo, S Jim Leonhard, CB Frank Walker, CB Fabian Washington

KEY LOSS:
QB Steve McNair (6/6)*
The Ravens were banking on McNair to rebound from an injury-marred 2007 season and lead them back to the playoffs. But he abruptly retired nine days before the NFL draft, shocking the entire organization.

OTHER LOSSES:
RB Mike Anderson (8/0), WR Devard Darling (16/1), C/G Mike Flynn (15/15), CB Willie Gaston (4/2), PR/KR B.J. Sams (1/0), S Gerome Sapp (9/0), RB Musa Smith (16/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 9 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

QUARTERBACKS

The Ravens' quarterback situation — and entire season — was thrown for a jolt when McNair abruptly retired on the morning of Harbaugh's first minicamp practice. McNair wasn't the same passer from his days with the Tennessee Titans, but he was the most experienced quarterback on the team.

Although Harbaugh said there would be an open competition for the job, Boller is the favorite to start the season. Boller, 26, a former first-round pick by the Ravens, has an 18-21 record as a starter and has shown flashes of being a legitimate NFL quarterback with his size, arm strength and mobility. His main competition early will come from Troy Smith, the former Heisman Trophy winner who is still considered a raw project.

There is a chance the Ravens could start Flacco immediately because he has the size (6-6) and the arm. But the Ravens have probably learned their lesson from rushing Boller in 2003 and likely will give Flacco time to develop from a small-school offensive system to an NFL one.

RATING: 6

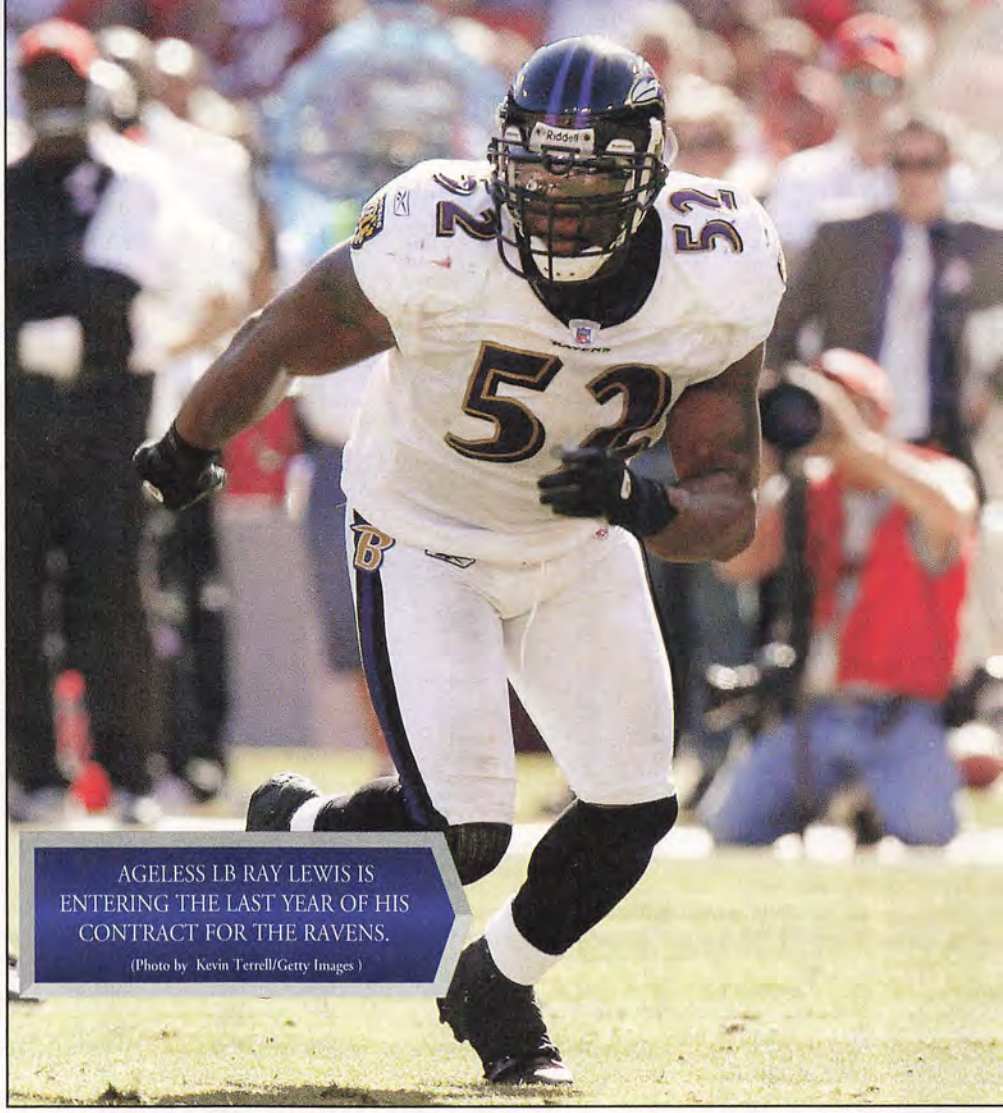
RUNNING BACKS

Willis McGahee jumpstarted his career, becoming the most productive Ravens running back since Jamal Lewis in 2003. Pounding the ball inside as well as hitting the edges for big plays, McGahee ran for 1,207 yards and scored seven touchdowns despite having lackluster quarterback play. He should become even more of a focal point in his second season with the Ravens.

The Ravens decided to go younger at backup, cutting Mike Anderson and choosing not to re-sign Musa Smith. Baltimore selected Rutgers' Ray Rice in the second round, the Ravens' highest drafted running back in eight seasons. While only 5-8, Rice is a tough runner who averaged 151 yards against top 10 teams last season.

One of the team's most impressive rookies last season was fullback Le'Ron McClain, who solidified himself as a lead blocker. He surprised the Ravens with his ability as a receiver as well.

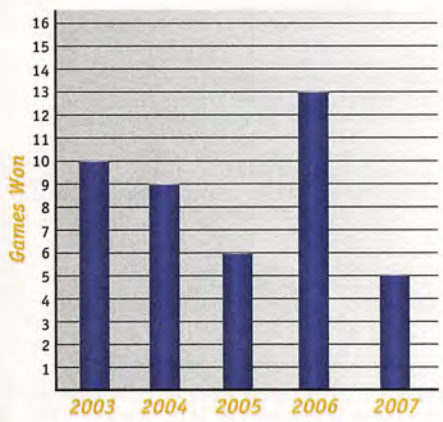
RATING: 8



AGELESS LB RAY LEWIS IS ENTERING THE LAST YEAR OF HIS CONTRACT FOR THE RAVENS.

(Photo by Kevin Terrell/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2006*

RECEIVERS

This was one of the most disappointing groups on the Ravens last season. Derrick Mason set a franchise record for catches (103) but he has become a possession-type receiver. The two young receivers, Mark Clayton and Demetrius Williams, disappeared for most of the season, and one needs to step up and assume the No. 2 receiver job. The team's fourth receiver will be either Yamon Figurs or rookie Marcus Smith, a fourth-round pick who is known for making tough catches over the middle.

At tight end, Todd Heap missed most of the season with a hamstring injury, but he should be back at full strength for training camp. When healthy, he is an explosive weapon downfield and the team's best option in the red zone. The other tight ends have an injury history, too. Daniel Wilcox was banged up last season with multiple injuries, and Quinn Sypniewski suffered a knee injury at the team's first minicamp.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Left tackle Jonathan Ogden is expected to retire before the season, leaving a huge hole on the offensive line. The Ravens will replace Ogden with either Adam Terry, a disappointing second-round pick who lacks toughness, or Jared Gaither, a raw project who lacks a solid work ethic.

Another new starter will be Chris Chester, a former second-round pick who has the best feet of the group. He replaces Mike Flynn, who was cut after starting seven seasons at center.

Left guard Jason Brown is on the verge of becoming a Pro Bowl player. Right guard Ben Grubbs, the team's first-round pick in 2007, is extremely solid. Right tackle Marshal Yanda is considered the Ravens' toughest lineman.

RATING: 6

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

When Trevor Pryce is healthy, this could be the best defensive front in the league. Pryce was out for most of the season with a broken wrist and a torn pectoral muscle. The Ravens desperately missed his ability to rush the passer.

Haloti Ngata, one of the top young defensive linemen in the NFL, disrupts offenses with his quickness, physical play and great motor. The most

Ravens Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	Clayton, Mark	5-10	195	4	Oklahoma	16/12	D1 05	D1 BLT 05	Might lose starting job after his catch total dropped to 48 last season.
16	Figurs, Yamon (KR)	5-11	175	2	Kansas State	14/0	D3 07	D3 BLT 07	A dangerous returner who struggles as a receiver because of bad hands.
14	Harper, Justin	6-3	215	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D7 08	D7 BLT 08	Underachiever in college provides much-needed size to this receiving group.
86	***Heap, Todd (TE)**	**6-5**	**252**	**8**	**Arizona State**	**6/6**	**D1 01**	**D1 BLT 01**	**Expected to have a career year in Cam Cameron's new offensive system.**
85	**Mason, Derrick**	**5-10**	**192**	**12**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**FA 05**	**D4 TENN 97**	**Won't beat receivers deep anymore at age 34, but he won't drop many passes.**
82	Nordin, Jake (TE)	6-3	255	1	Northern Illinois	1/0	FA 07	CFA NE 07	Late-season addition from practice squad last year when Heap went on IR.
18	Reed, Kerry	6-1	201	2	Michigan State	1/0	FA 08	CFA MIA 07	Is considered a longshot to make the roster.
81	Smith, Marcus	6-1	220	R	New Mexico	0/0	D4 08	D4 BLT 08	Tough fourth-round pick is fearless when making catches over the middle.
88	Sypniewski, Quinn (TE)	6-6	270	3	Colorado	15/9	D5 06	D5 BLT 06	Knee injury suffered at team's first minicamp could be season ending.
80	Vickers, Lee (TE)	6-6	275	2	North Alabama	9/2	FA 07	CFA PITT 06	Might make team as third tight end because of injuries at this position.
83	Wilcox, Daniel (TE)	6-1	245	6	Appalachian State	5/2	FA 04	CFA NYJ 01	Solid pass-catching threat needs to bounce back from injury-marred '07.
87	**Williams, Demetrius**	**6-2**	**197**	**3**	**Oregon**	**9/4**	**D4 06**	**D4 BLT 06**	**Could supplant Clayton as a starter because of his superior size.**
17	Willis, Matt	5-11	185	2	UCLA	5/0	FA 07	CFA BLT 07	Needs to beat out two draft picks at receiver to make the team this year.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
60	**Brown, Jason (G)**	**6-3**	**320**	**4**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**D4 05**	**D4 BLT 05**	**Strong drive blocker seems primed for a Pro Bowl season this year.**
65	**Chester, Chris (C)**	**6-3**	**305**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**16/5**	**D2 06**	**D2 BLT 06**	**Still has to prove he is strong enough to become team's starting center.**
64	Cousins, Oniel (T)	6-4	310	R	Texas-El Paso	0/0	D3 08	D3 BLT 08	Athletic third-round pick will compete for starting right tackle job.
71	Gaither, Jared (T)	6-9	350	2	Maryland	6/2	SD5 07	SD5 BLT 07	Has all the physical tools, but needs to develop a better work ethic.
66	**Grubbs, Ben (G)**	**6-3**	**315**	**2**	**Auburn**	**16/12**	**D1 07**	**D1 BLT 07**	**Former first-round pick was among NFL's most underrated rookies last season.**
76	Hale, David (T)	6-6	315	R	Weber State	0/0	D4 08	D4 BLT 08	Fourth-round pick brings a much-needed, nasty side to the offensive line.
74	Kracalik, Mike (T)	6-8	337	1	San Diego State	2/0	FA 08	CFA NYJ 05	Versatile backup could make the team as the fourth offensive tackle.
75	Ogden, Jonathan (T)	6-9	345	13	UCLA	11/10	D1 96	D1 BLT 96	Expected to end Hall of Fame career by retiring before training camp.
78	**Terry, Adam (T)**	**6-8**	**330**	**4**	**Syracuse**	**13/9**	**D2 05**	**D2 BLT 05**	**Will replace Ogden as the left tackle if he shows a more rugged demeanor.**
73	**Yanda, Marshall (T/G)**	**6-3**	**310**	**2**	**Iowa**	**16/12**	**D3 07**	**D3 BLT 07**	**Widely considered the toughest offensive lineman on Ravens by teammates.**
RUNNING BACKS									
30	*Daniels, P.J.	5-10	214	3	Georgia Tech	0/0	D4 06	D4 BLT 06	Promising runner has entered past two regular seasons on injured reserve.
33	Green, Justin (FB)	5-11	251	4	Montana	15/0	D5 05	D5 BLT 05	Adequate special teams player has failed to develop as a fullback.
37	**McClain, Le'Ron (FB)**	**6-0**	**260**	**2**	**Alabama**	**16/11**	**D4 07**	**D4 BLT 07**	**Tough, straight-ahead blocker consistently opened holes for McGahee.**
23	**McGahee, Willis**	**6-0**	**232**	**5**	**Miami**	**15/15**	**T,BUFF 07**	**D1 BUFF 03**	**Rushed for 1,207 yards last season, just 40 yards shy of his career best.**
38	Patrick, Allen	6-1	200	R	Oklahoma	0/0	D7 08	D7 BLT 08	Seventh-round pick could find niche on team as a gunner on special teams.
39	Rice, Ray	5-8	200	R	Rutgers	0/0	D2 08	D2 BLT 08	Became Rutgers' all-time leading rusher with 4,926 yards and 49 touchdowns.
34	Ross, Cory	5-6	201	3	Nebraska	6/0	CFA 06	CFA BLT 06	Diminutive runner will try to land a spot on the team as a third-down back.
QUARTERBACKS									
7	**Boller, Kyle**	**6-3**	**220**	**6**	**California**	**12/8**	**D1 03**	**D1 BLT 03**	**Former quarterback of the future now has an uncertain future with Ravens.**
5	Flacco, Joe	6-6	235	R	Delaware	0/0	D1 08	D1 BLT 08	First Division I-AA quarterback taken in first round since Steve McNair in '95.
10	Smith, Troy	6-0	225	2	Ohio State	4/2	D5 07	D5 BLT 07	Former Heisman Trophy winner could become long-term solution as backup.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
94	Bannan, Justin (T)	6-3	310	7	Colorado	15/1	UFA,BUFF 06	D5 BUFF 02	Above-average backup who fights and claws inside against the run.
93	Edwards, Dwan (T)	6-3	315	5	Oregon State	16/13	D2 04	D2 BLT 04	Slow-developing prospect produced his best season last year.
63	Gordon, Amon (T)	6-2	305	4	Stanford	5/4	FA 08	D5 CLV 04	Journeyman has played 11 games for three teams over a four-year span.
97	**Gregg, Kelly (NT)**	**6-0**	**310**	**8**	**Oklahoma**	**16/16**	**FA 01**	**D6 CIN 99**	**Ultimate blue-collar worker who wins battles with leverage and technique.**
92	**Ngata, Haloti (E)**	**6-4**	**340**	**3**	**Oregon**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 BLT 06**	**Unique blend of power and agility should land him in Pro Bowl this year.**
69	Parker, J'Vonne (NT)	6-4	325	2	Rutgers	1/0	FA 07	CFA CLV 05	Played eight games for the Cleveland Browns in 2005 and 2006.
90	***Pryce, Trevor (E)**	**6-5**	**286**	**12**	**Clemson**	**5/2**	**FA 06**	**D1 DEN 97**	**Ravens' pass rush disappeared when injuries forced him out of the lineup.**
LINEBACKERS									
96	Ayanbadejo, Brendon (O)	6-1	228	6	UCLA	16/0	UFA,CHI 08	CFA ATL 99	Special teams ace was biggest free-agent signing by Ravens this year.
50	Barnes, Antwan (O)	6-1	240	2	Florida International	14/0	D4 07	D4 BLT 07	One-dimensional player who will make his mark as a situational pass rusher.
54	*Burgess, Prescott (O)	6-3	240	2	Michigan	8/0	D6 07	D6 BLT 07	Physical backup who needs to make his mark on special teams.
53	*Cody, Dan (O)	6-5	255	4	Oklahoma	0/0	D2 05	D2 BLT 05	Been limited to two games in three years because of numerous injuries.
49	Gooden, Tavares	6-1	235	R	Miami	0/0	D3 08	D3 BLT 08	Third-round pick could start at inside or outside linebacker by 2009.
59	Greisen, Nick (O)	6-1	244	7	Wisconsin	14/2	FA 07	D5 NYG 02	Adequate veteran backup is a sure tackler who lacks speed and range.
95	**Johnson, Jarret (O)**	**6-3**	**270**	**6**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D4 03**	**D4 BLT 03**	**Long-time backup held his own for most of the season as a starter.**
91	Jones, Edgar (O)	6-3	263	2	Southeast Missouri State	4/0	FA 07	CFA BLT 07	Former undrafted rookie has to continue to show presence on special teams.
52	**Lewis, Ray (I)**	**6-1**	**250**	**13**	**Miami**	**14/14**	**D1 96**	**D1 BLT 96**	**Ravens have hinted at taking him off the field on some third-down situations.**
58	McCune, Robert (I)	6-0	240	3	Louisville	2/0	FA 07	D5 WSH 05	Made a name for himself as most impressive player in the weight room.
57	**Scott, Bart (I)**	**6-2**	**240**	**7**	**Southern Illinois**	**16/16**	**CFA 02**	**CFA BLT 02**	**Looks for impressive year before heading into free agency after season.**
51	*Smith, Mike (I)	6-1	235	4	Texas Tech	0/0	FA 05	D7 BLT 05	Has finished all three of his NFL seasons on injured reserve.
56	Stills, Gary (O)	6-2	250	10	West Virginia	16/0	FA 06	D3 KC 99	Influx of youth on special teams could spell end for banged-up veteran.
55	**Suggs, Terrell (O)**	**6-3**	**260**	**6**	**Arizona State**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 BLT 03**	**It will be interesting to see how he responds after team franchised him.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
35	Ivy, Corey (CB)	5-9	188	7	Oklahoma	16/13	UFA,STL 06	CFA NE 99	Has plummeted down the depth chart after he flopped as fill-in starter.
26	**Landry, Dawan (S)**	**6-0**	**220**	**3**	**Georgia Tech**	**16/16**	**D5 06**	**D5 BLT 06**	**Hard hitter continues to impress as an overachieving fifth-round pick.**
36	Leonhard, Jim (S)	5-8	185	4	Wisconsin	13/6	FA 08	CFA BUFF 05	Undersized safety who spent the past three seasons with the Buffalo Bills.
29	Martin, Derrick (CB)	5-10	202	3	Wyoming	16/3	D6 06	D6 BLT 06	Average backup who has excelled on special teams for Ravens.
21	***McAlister, Chris (CB)**	**6-1**	**206**	**10**	**Arizona**	**8/8**	**D1 99**	**D1 BLT 99**	**Still one of the top all-around cornerbacks in the NFL when healthy.**
43	Nakamura, Haruki (S)	5-10	205	R	Cincinnati	0/0	D6 08	D6 BLT 08	Small sixth-round pick has to show he is durable enough to play in NFL.
24	Pittman, David (CB)	5-11	182	3	Northwestern State	7/1	D3 06	D3 BLT 06	A third-round bust could be on the verge of getting cut this year.
27	Prude, Ronnie (CB)	5-11	178	3	Louisiana State	15/0	CFA 06	CFA BLT 06	Former undrafted rookie has yet to establish himself as a backup.
20	**Reed, Ed (S)**	**5-11**	**200**	**7**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 BLT 02**	**Has made 34 interceptions in his impressive six-year career.**
22	***Rolle, Samari (CB)**	**6-0**	**175**	**11**	**Florida State**	**6/5**	**FA 05**	**D2 TENN 98**	**Uncertain how he will hold up after being diagnosed with epilepsy.**
42	*Sapp, Gerome (S)	6-1	216	6	Notre Dame	9/0	T,IND 06	D6 BLT 03	Ravens could re-sign UFA if they need more experience on special teams.
41	Walker, Frank (CB)	5-11	196	6	Tuskegee	12/0	UFA,GB 08	D6 NYG 03	Free-agent pickup from Green Bay could battle Ivy for dime back job.
31	Washington, Fabian (CB)	5-11	185	4	Nebraska	15/3	T,OAK 08	D1 OAK 05	Former first-round pick by Raiders will push Rolle for starting job.
28	Winborne, Jamaine	5-10	202	2	Virginia	16/0	FA 06	CFA NYG 04	Speedy backup who has shown good ball skills at times in two-year stint.
40	Zbikowski, Tom (S)	5-11	215	R	Notre Dame	0/0	D3 08	D3 BLT 08	Hard-hitting, third-round pick will develop into a special teams monster.
SPECIALISTS									
70	Katula, Matt (LS)	6-6	272	4	Wisconsin	16/0	CFA 05	CFA BLT 05	Athletic long snapper surprisingly made seven tackles last season.
4	Koch, Sam (P)	6-1	230	3	Nebraska	16/0	D6 06	D6 BLT 06	Has placed 50 punts inside the 20-yard line in two-year career.
3	Stover, Matt (K)	5-11	178	19	Louisiana Tech	16/0	PB,NYG 91	D12 NYG 90	Reliable kicker has made at least 27 field goals in each of the past five seasons.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; PB=Plan B.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Patrick Carter (Tampa International), Ernie Wheelwright (Minnesota); TEs Scott Kuhn (Louisville), Joe Reitz (Western Michigan); OT Sean Dumford (Eastern Kentucky); OGs Brandon Barnes (Grand Valley State), Adam Kraus (Michigan), Isaiah Wiggins (Illinois State); QB Brad Roach (Catawba); DT Zarnell Fitch (1, Texas Christian); DL Lorenzo Williams (Missouri); LB Jameel McClain (Syracuse); Ps Piotr Czech (Wagner), Ben Dato (Fordham).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Harbaugh effect. The players lost confidence in Brian Billick's ability to lead the team and asked owner Steve Bisciotti for a change. And there certainly has been a change in attitude. On a team filled with egos, Harbaugh is stressing the mantra that no one player is bigger than the team.
2. The Ravens are staging an open battle for the starting job between Kyle Boller, Troy Smith and rookie Joe Flacco. Because Flacco comes from Delaware, Boller or Smith will likely lead this team for at least the first half of the season.
3. The long-time face of the franchise, Ray Lewis is playing the final year of his contract. The Ravens will outbid teams at the end of the season if Lewis shows he is still among the game's best linebackers.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Todd Heap

When Todd Heap is healthy, he is one of the most dangerous weapons in the Ravens' offense.

When he is hurt, Heap hears the criticism that he's either becoming brittle at age 28 or that he is soft.

"I've heard that some people have questioned my toughness," Heap said. "I don't know who would do that."

This is a pivotal season for Heap to prove that he is still among the best tight ends in the NFL.

When he started every game in 2005 and 2006, he averaged 74 catches and scored a total of 13 touchdowns.

But in 2004, he played only six games because of an ankle injury. Then, last season, he missed two-thirds of the season because of a torn left hamstring.

Now that he is healthy again, Heap has the chance to re-establish himself with a new offensive coordinator. Looking at film of Cam Cameron's offense in San Diego, Heap is excited about the possibilities of having the same success as Chargers tight end Antonio Gates.

"The biggest thing that sticks out is what he did in San Diego," Heap said of Cameron. "You see what he did with their talent, how he used their receivers as playmakers. He was extremely successful with that offense."

overlooked lineman continues to be nose tackle Kelly Gregg, who clogs up the middle with a blue-collar attitude. The Ravens have average depth with Dwan Edwards and Justin Bannan.

RATING: 9

LINEBACKERS

If the Ravens want to reclaim the No. 1 defensive ranking in the NFL, they'll need more playmaking from their linebackers. This unit is still run by Ray Lewis, who bounced back from an off year but isn't the same playmaker from years ago. A potential free agent at the end of the season, Lewis is still a force against the run.

The Ravens want a more rejuvenated effort from Bart Scott and Terrell Suggs. They managed just six sacks last season after combining for 19 in 2006. Jarret Johnson is a solid starter at outside linebacker, but he isn't the same playmaker as Adalius Thomas.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

The secondary flopped last season after starting cornerbacks Chris McAlister and Samari Rolle missed a chunk of the season with injuries and started only a handful of games together. Both are expected to return to top form this season, but the Ravens bolstered their depth just in case. The Ravens traded for Fabian Washington, a former first-round pick by the Oakland Raiders, and signed Frank Walker from Green Bay in free agency.

At safety, Ed Reed had another All-Pro season and remained the only player who changed games on defense. Dawan Landry is a physical hitter, but seemed to take a step back after an impressive rookie season. The top backup is hard-hitting Tom Zbikowski, a third-round pick out of Notre Dame.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

This has become a point of emphasis under Harbaugh, a former special teams coach. The Ravens' first free-agent signing was Brendon Ayanbadejo, a two-time Pro Bowl special teams player. Matt Stover is still one of the NFL's most accurate kickers, but he missed at some critical times last season. Sam Koch is a solid punter who needs to improve his touch inside the 20-yard line. The Ravens are hoping dangerous return specialist Yamon Figurs becomes more dependable fielding kicks in his second season.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

There is a new energy on the Ravens after replacing Billick with Harbaugh. But it could take time until Harbaugh truly establishes himself with the players.

RATING: Even

—Jamison Hensley

2007 RESULTS

Record: 5-11

Sep. 10	at Cincinnati (Mon.)	20-27
Sep. 16	N.Y. JETS	20-13
Sep. 23	ARIZONA	26-23
Sep. 30	at Cleveland	13-27
Oct. 7	at San Francisco	9- 7
Oct. 14	ST. LOUIS	22- 3
Oct. 21	at Buffalo	14-19
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	7-38
Nov. 11	CINCINNATI	7-21
Nov. 18	CLEVELAND (OT)	30-33
Nov. 25	at San Diego	14-32
Dec. 3	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	24-27
Dec. 9	INDIANAPOLIS	20-44
Dec. 16	at Miami (OT)	16-22
Dec. 23	at Seattle	6-27
Dec. 30	PITTSBURGH	27-21

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	at New England (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 16	Minnesota (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 23	at St. Louis (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 28	ATLANTA (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 7	CINCINNATI	1:00
Sep. 14	at Houston	3:15
Sep. 21	CLEVELAND	4:15
Sep. 29	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 5	TENNESSEE	1:00
Oct. 12	at Indianapolis	1:00
Oct. 19	at Miami	1:00
Oct. 26	OAKLAND	1:00
Nov. 2	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov. 9	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 16	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Nov. 23	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Nov. 30	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec. 7	WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec. 14	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Dec. 20	at Dallas (Sat.)	7:15
Dec. 28	JACKSONVILLE	1:00

CINCINNATI BENGALS

2007 RECORD: 7-9 | STADIUM: Paul Brown Stadium, 65,515, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

AFC NORTH

www.bengals.com

AT A GLANCE

One Paul Brown Stadium
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 621-3550

TRAINING CAMP:
Georgetown College; Georgetown, KY

COACH:
Marvin Lewis, 6th year with Bengals and as NFL head coach (42-39)

PRESIDENT:
Mike Brown

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Pete Brown

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:
Katie Blackburn

VICE PRESIDENT:
Troy Blackburn

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Jim Lippincott

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Duke Tobin

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Bob Bratkowski	Offensive coordinator	17	8
Ken Zampese	Quarterbacks	11	6
Paul Alexander	*Offensive line	17	15
Bob Surace	Assistant line	7	7
Jim Anderson	Running backs	25	25
Jonathan Hayes	Tight ends	6	6
Mike Sheppard	Receivers	15	2
Mike Zimmer	Defensive coordinator	15	1
Jay Hayes	Defensive line	10	6
Jeff FitzGerald	Linebackers	15	1
Paul Guenther	Asst. LB/asst. ST	4	4
Kevin Coyle	Secondary	8	8
Louie Cioffi	Assistant secondary	14	12
Darrin Simmons	Special teams	12	6
Chip Morton	Strength & Cond.	17	6
Ray Oliver	Strength & Cond.	6	5

*Assistant head coach

Bengals Can't Let Chad Johnson be a Distraction

Marvin Lewis came to Cincinnati in 2003 vowing to turn the Bengals into Super Bowl contenders. Within three seasons the team went 11-5 and made its first playoff appearance in 15 seasons. All signs pointed to that being just the first step in the resurrection of what had been the NFL's laughingstock organization.

Instead of continuing that rise, however, the Bengals have slipped back into the great middle expanse of the league known as mediocrity. They lost their last three games in 2006 to finish 8-8 and blew a shot at the playoffs before starting last season 2-6 en route to a 7-9 record.

The biggest news surrounding the Bengals this off-season involves the desire for wide receiver Chad Johnson to get out of town. Johnson says he has been blamed too much for the team's lack of success and he wants out of the remaining four seasons of a six-year contract extension he signed in 2006. The Bengals say they won't trade Johnson.

How's that for instilling confidence and belief the playoffs are a viable possibility in 2008?

COACHING

The coaching staff has been stable in the six years of the Marvin Lewis era, except at defensive coordinator. Mike Zimmer replaces Chuck Bresnahan this season, becoming the third coordinator under Lewis. Jeff FitzGerald was hired away from Baltimore to take over the linebackers after the Bengals let go of Ricky Hunley. Contrary to what some might believe, Lewis is not in trouble in Cincinnati simply because ownership trusts him and believes he is the right man for the job.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Carson Palmer is a top-tier signal caller and with him in the lineup the Bengals will always have a shot at victory. He threw for more than 4,000 yards for the second straight season last year, but his 26 touchdowns were accompanied by a career-high 20 interceptions. His final passer rating of 86.7 mirrored the Bengals' 7-9 season: subpar. It was well below the 101.1 rating he had in 2005 and 93.9 rating in '06.

Ryan Fitzpatrick hasn't played much since he was a rookie in St. Louis in 2005, but he is the No. 2 man. Jeff Rowe, a fifth-round pick last year, and Palmer's younger brother Jordan will battle it out for the third spot.

RATING: 8.5

RUNNING BACKS

On paper, the Bengals have a backfield full of weapons. In reality there are more question marks than anything else. Whether or not Rudi Johnson can return to form is first on the list.

Kenny Watson showed he can be more than just a third-down back, leading the team with 763 yards rushing and seven touchdowns in five starts as Johnson's replacement. DeDe Dorsey flashed some speed and quickness in limited playing time, but

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
DE Antwan Odom

The Bengals got to opposing quarterbacks for just 22 sacks last season. Odom had eight sacks himself last season for Tennessee, but now he'll be asked to do more than be just a situational pass-rushing specialist.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Darryl Blackstock, WR Doug Gabriel, LB Brandon Johnson, TE Ben Utecht

KEY LOSS:
DE Justin Smith (16/16)*
Smith is an every-down player whose biggest negative is that he was the fourth overall pick in the 2001 draft and didn't get to the quarterback as much as many believed he should. He was better against the run than many gave him credit for.

OTHER LOSSES:
WR Chris Henry (8/2), LB Landon Johnson (16/16), OL Adam Kieft (0/0), LB Lemar Marshall (4/3), LB Caleb Miller (3/1), WR Tab Perry (2/1), DL Bryan Robinson (16/4), C Alex Stepanovich (12/4), S Madieu Williams (13/13)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 11 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

the Bengals are hoping that former first-round pick Chris Perry can return after missing all of last season while recovering from a broken ankle. Kenny Irons, last year's No. 2 pick, is coming off of a torn ACL and isn't expected to ready in time for training camp. Fullback Jeremi Johnson has been a Pro Bowl alternate each of the last two seasons.

RATING: 6.5

RECEIVERS

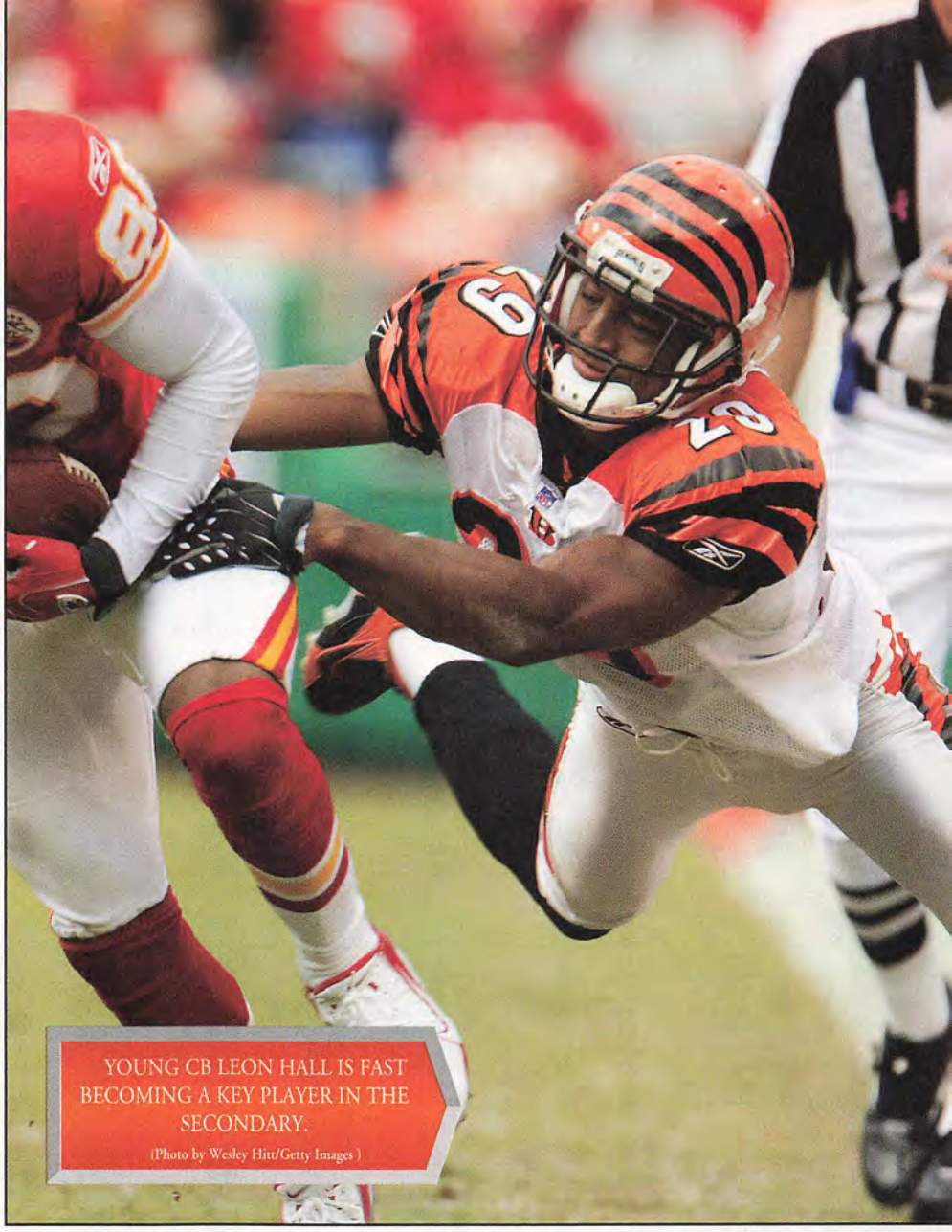
T.J. Houshmandzadeh is heading into his contract year. Chad Johnson is threatening to sit out the season if he's not traded and the talented headache that was Chris Henry has been released after one final run-in with the law. That about sums up the transition mode the Bengals are facing at what was once one of the deepest units in the NFL. The Bengals addressed this issue by drafting three wide receivers, including Jerome Simpson in the second round and Andre Caldwell in the third round. The addition of tight end Ben Utecht as a restricted free agent from Indianapolis should help provide Palmer with another target. Utecht had 68 catches the last two seasons with the Colts.

RATING: 8

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The health of tackles Levi Jones and Willie Anderson will determine if the Bengals' line can return to being a top-flight group. The two bookends missed a combined 14 starts last season due to injuries and that helps explain the inconsistency of the offense. Eight different offensive linemen saw significant action last season. Even though Palmer was sacked a franchise-low 17 times, that doesn't mean he didn't face a lot of pressure or sustain more hits than the coaching staff would like. Running the ball for better than the 3.7 yards per carry average they had as a team last season would help. Center Eric Ghiaciuc is in his third season as the starter, but he will be pushed by second-year player Dan Santucci. The Bengals have Stacy Andrews, but heading into training camp he still doesn't have a starting position wrapped up. He started three times at left guard and 11 times at right tackle last season. For the money he's making, figure he will end up displacing either Andrew Whitworth at left guard or Bobbie Williams on the right side.

RATING: 7



YOUNG CB LEON HALL IS FAST BECOMING A KEY PLAYER IN THE SECONDARY.
(Photo by Wesley Hitt/Getty Images)

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

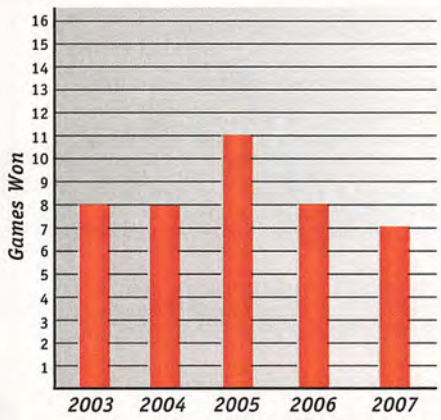
Antwan Odom was signed as an unrestricted free agent from Tennessee to play opposite Robert Geathers with the hopes that the defense will be able to get to the quarterback more often than the 22 times it did last season. Third-year player Frostee Rucker is being counted on to join the rotation after two seasons in which he has been largely anonymous. Domata Peko and John Thornton will start in the interior with veteran Michael Myers and third-round choice Patrick Sims as the primary backups. Fifth-round pick Jason Shirley has the kind of big body (6-5, 330 pounds) that can cause big problems for offensive linemen, but he also comes with personal issues; he was kicked off of the Fresno State team last season after three suspensions, including one after a DUI arrest.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

The Bengals drafted Keith Rivers in the first round and it's not likely he will sit on the bench very long. He could become a true force from the weak-side position, while the Bengals are itching to see what a healthy Ahmad Brooks can do in the middle for an entire season. Brooks suffered a groin injury in the second week of last season and never returned. Third-year player Rashad Jeanty was solid on the strong side last season after returning from a preseason calf injury. Veteran Dhani Jones was second on the team in tackles last season and will play a lot, regardless if he starts. Odell Thurman has been reinstated by the NFL after a two-year suspension and the Bengals are

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005*

Bengals Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
87	Caldwell, Andre	6-0	203	R	Florida	0/0	D3 08	D3 CIN 08	Third-round pick left Florida as program's all-time leading receiver with 185 catches.
83	Chatman, Antonio (KR)	5-8	182	6	Cincinnati	13/1	FA 03	CFA SF 01	Needs to stay healthy to have a shot at keeping a job in a crowded field.
86	Coats, Daniel (TE)	6-3	255	2	Brigham Young	15/3	CFA 07	CFA CIN 07	Showed promise as a rookie catching 12 passes and becoming a better blocker.
12	Gabriel, Doug	6-2	215	6	Central Florida	0/0	FA 08	D5 OAK 03	Trying to revive career after being out of the league last season.
16	Holt, Glenn	6-1	193	3	Kentucky	16/0	FA 06	CFA CIN 06	Has averaged 24.4 yards in two seasons as kick returner.
84	**Houshmandzadeh, T.J.**	**6-1**	**199**	**8**	**Oregon State**	**16/15**	**D7 01**	**D7 CIN 01**	**Coming off of his first Pro Bowl after tying for NFL lead with 112 receptions.**
85	**Johnson, Chad**	**6-1**	**192**	**8**	**Oregon State**	**16/16**	**D2 01**	**D2 CIN 01**	**Does the franchise all-time leader ever catch another pass in Stripes?**
82	**Kelly, Reggie (TE)**	**6-4**	**250**	**10**	**Mississippi State**	**15/15**	**UFA,ATL 03**	**D2 ATL 99**	**Vital as blocker in running game, not as big as a receiver.**
80	Lawrie, Nate (TE)	6-7	255	4	Yale	3/2	FA 07	D6 TB 04	Played in just three games and will have tough time making team.
10	Maxwell, Marcus	6-4	205	3	Oregon	5/0	FA 07	D7 SF 05	Led NFL Europa in TD catches in 2007, but still waiting to make splash in NFL.
88	Sherry, Matt (TE)	6-4	255	R	Villanova	0/0	D6 08	D6 CIN 08	Viewed as prospect for the future who can grow into a duel threat.
89	Simpson, Jerome	6-2	190	R	Coastal Carolina	0/0	D2 08	D2 CIN 08	Second-round pick scored 43 touchdowns in 44 games at Coastal Carolina.
18	Urrutia, Mario	6-5	232	R	Louisville	0/0	D7 08	D7 CIN 08	Big body deep threat caught 58 passes at Louisville in 2006 under Bobby Petrino
81	Utecht, Ben (TE)	6-6	251	5	Minnesota	14/13	RFA,IND 08	CFA IND 04	Bengals haven't had a tight end with 30 catches since 1997; Utecht had 68 last two seasons.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	**Anderson, Willie (T)**	**6-5**	**340**	**13**	**Auburn**	**7/5**	**D1 96**	**D1 CIN 96**	**Only five players have appeared in more games as a Bengal than Anderson's 181.**
79	Andrews, Stacy (G)	6-7	342	5	Mississippi	16/14	D4 04	D4 CIN 04	Has gone from playing in five college games to being given team's franchise tag.
73	Collins, Anthony (T)	6-6	311	R	Kansas	0/0	D4 08	D4 CIN 08	Bengals eying the future of tackle position with this fourth-round pick.
53	***Ghiaciuc Eric (C)**	**6-4**	**300**	**4**	**Central Michigan**	**12/12**	**D4 05**	**D4 CIN 05**	**Needs to improve consistency to get out of shadow of retired Rich Braham.**
76	**Jones, Levi (T)**	**6-5**	**307**	**7**	**Arizona State**	**15/13**	**D1 02**	**D1 CIN 02**	**Health of knees are a concern, but has played at Pro Bowl level in past.**
75	Kooistra, Scott (G)	6-6	335	6	North Carolina State	16/0	D7 03	D7 CIN 03	Solid backup saw most significant playing time last season.
62	Livings, Nate (G)	6-5	335	1	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 07	CFA CIN 06	Make or break season for a player who has been on practice squad for two seasons
65	Santucci, Dan (C)	6-4	304	2	Notre Dame	2/0	D7 07	D7 CIN 07	On active roster all last season as a rookie, played in two games.
77	**Whitworth, Andrew (G/T)**	**6-7**	**339**	**3**	**Louisiana State**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 CIN 06**	**Has played in all 32 games since being drafted in second round in 2006.**
63	**Williams, Bobbie (G)**	**6-4**	**345**	**9**	**Arkansas**	**16/16**	**UFA,PHA 04**	**D2 PHA 00**	**Teams with Anderson to give Bengals nearly 700 pounds of push on right side.**
RUNNING BACKS									
27	*Dorsey, DeDe	5-11	196	3	Lindenwood	12/2	FA 07	CFA CIN 06	Had the team's longest run since 2004 with a 45-yard gain against St. Louis.
30	*Irons, Kenny	5-11	200	2	Auburn	0/0	D2 07	D2 CIN 07	Second-round pick last year isn't ready to return from ACL tear.
31	**Johnson, Jeremi (FB)**	**5-11**	**260**	**6**	**Western Kentucky**	**16/9**	**D4 03**	**D4 CIN 03**	**Has been an AFC Pro Bowl alternate last two seasons.**
32	**Johnson, Rudi**	**5-10**	**214**	**8**	**Auburn**	**11/9**	**D4 01**	**D4 CIN 01**	**Needs 706 yards to pass James Brooks as No. 2 rusher in team history.**
23	*Perry, Chris	6-0	224	5	Michigan	0/0	D1 04	D1 CIN 04	Injuries have relegated former first-rounder to 22 games played in four seasons.
33	Watson, Kenny	6-0	218	7	Penn State	16/5	FA 03	CFA WSH 01	Led team in rushing with 763 yards and was No. 3 receiver with 52 catches.
QUARTERBACKS									
11	Fitzpatrick, Ryan	6-2	225	4	Harvard	1/0	T,STL 07	D7 STL 05	Didn't take a snap last season after Bengals traded for him to be the backup.
9	**Palmer, Carson**	**6-5**	**230**	**6**	**Southern Cal**	**16/16**	**D1 03**	**D1 CIN 03**	**Only Marino, Warner, Unitas and Peyton Manning got to 100 TD passes faster.**
3	Rowe, Jeff	6-5	221	2	Nevada	0/0	D5 07	D5 CIN 07	Fifth-round pick in 2007 was plus-22 TD passes to interceptions in college at Nevada.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
61	Burton, Antwon (T)	6-2	318	3	Temple	6/0	FA 08	CFA DEN 06	Played six games for Denver last season; could compete for depth inside.
69	Craig, Angelo (E)	6-5	245	R	Cincinnati	0/0	D7 08	D7 CIN 08	One of numerous prospects from the pipeline at Cleveland Glenville H.S.
68	Fanene, Jonathan (T)	6-4	295	4	Utah	14/0	D7 05	D7 CIN 05	Recorded first career sack at Miami in season finale.
91	**Geathers, Robert (E)**	**6-3**	**265**	**5**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D4 04**	**D4 CIN 04**	**Showed up in six defensive categories in opening win against Baltimore.**
96	Myers, Michael (T)	6-2	300	11	Alabama	15/2	UFA,DEN 07	D4 DALL 98	Came up with first INT of his 11-year career last season.
98	**Odom, Antwan (E)**	**6-5**	**274**	**5**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**UFA,TENN 08**	**D2 TENN 04**	**Had two sacks at Indy in finale to help Tennessee secure playoff berth.**
94	**Peko, Domata (T)**	**6-3**	**319**	**3**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 CIN 06**	**Led Bengals interior linemen with 65 tackles last season.**
92	Rucker, Frostee (E)	6-3	280	3	Southern Cal	5/0	D3 06	D3 CIN 06	Third-round pick in 2006 has showed little up to now.
99	Shirley, Jason (T)	6-5	329	R	Fresno State	0/0	D5 08	D5 CIN 08	Risky fifth-round pick was suspended from Fresno State team last season.
90	Sims, Pat (T)	6-3	314	R	Auburn	0/0	D3 08	D3 CIN 08	Produced 7.5 sacks and 17.5 tackles for loss last season at Auburn.
97	**Thornton, John (T)**	**6-3**	**297**	**10**	**West Virginia**	**14/14**	**UFA,TENN 03**	**D2 TENN 99**	**Defensive captain last season, has missed just three games in last six seasons.**
LINEBACKERS									
56	Blackstock, Darryl (O)	6-3	244	4	Virginia	16/0	FA 08	D3 ARIZ 05	Finished third in special teams tackles for Arizona last season.
55	***Brooks, Ahmad (M)**	**6-3**	**259**	**3**	**Virginia**	**2/2**	**SD3 07**	**SD3 CIN 07**	**Full of potential, but needs to overcome groin injury.**
50	*Henderson, Eric	6-2	263	2	Georgia Tech	0/0	FA 07	CFA CIN 06	Trying to convert from college end spent all last season on injured reserve.
93	**Jeanty, Rashad (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**3**	**Central Florida**	**10/7**	**FA 06**	**FA CIN 06**	**Former CFL defensive end has found role as strong-side linbebacker.**
59	Johnson, Brandon (O)	6-5	224	3	Louisville	6/0	FA 08	D5 ARIZ 06	Free agent from Arizona will have to prove self on special teams.
57	Jones, Dhani (O)	6-1	240	9	Michigan	14/9	FA 07	D6 NYG 00	Didn't join team until third week of last season, but finished with 111 tackles.
52	Maxwell, Jim (O)	6-4	240	5	Gardner Webb	3/0	FA 07	CFA NYG 04	Forced one fumble and had three special teams tackles in three games.
51	Mays, Corey (O)	6-1	245	3	Notre Dame	12/1	W,NE 07	CFA NE 06	Second on team with 15 special teams tackles in 11 games.
99	*Pollack, David (O)	6-2	255	4	Georgia	0/0	D1 05	D1 CIN 05	Former first-round pick is healthy, but will retire due to neck injury.
58	**Rivers, Keith (O)**	**6-2**	**237**	**R**	**Southern Cal**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 CIN 08**	**Top pick this year is one of four college captains in draft class.**
45	*Thurman, Odell (M)	6-0	240	2	Georgia	0/0	D2 05	D2 CIN 05	Led team in tackles as a rookie in 2005 before NFL suspension.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
46	Adams, Blue (CB)	5-10	187	5	Cincinnati	13/0	FA 07	D7 DET 03	Vet special teams player has played for Bengals, Tampa Bay and Jacksonville.
36	Busing, John (S)	6-2	221	3	Miami, Ohio	12/0	FA 06	CFA CIN 06	Former rookie free agent has carved role on special teams.
29	**Hall, Leon (CB)**	**5-11**	**199**	**2**	**Michigan**	**16/10**	**D1 07**	**D1 CIN 07**	**Equaled franchise rookie record with five interceptions last season.**
34	Hebert, Kyries (S)	6-3	220	1	Louisiana-Lafayette	0/0	FA 08	OFA MINN 02	Helped lead Winnipeg to Grey Cup game in CFL last season.
28	**Jackson, Dexter (S)**	**6-0**	**210**	**10**	**Florida State**	**14/14**	**UFA,TB 06**	**D4 TB 99**	**Only player on Cincinnati roster with a Super Bowl championship ring.**
20	Jones, David (CB)	6-0	196	2	Wingate	7/0	W,NO 07	D5 NO 07	Spent last preseason with Saints before joining Bengals to start season.
44	*Jones, Herana-Daze (S)	5-11	205	3	Indiana	9/0	FA 06	CFA CIN 05	Led team in special teams tackles with 18 last season.
22	**Joseph, Johnathan (CB)**	**5-11**	**193**	**3**	**South Carolina**	**15/14**	**D1 06**	**D1 CIN 06**	**Returned first career interception for TD to seal win vs. Jets last season.**
43	*Kilmer, Ethan (S)	6-0	204	3	Penn State	0/0	D7 06	D7 CIN 06	Drafted in '06 as a special teams specialist, missed last season to knee injury.
47	Lynch, Corey (S)	6-0	206	R	Appalachian State	0/0	D6 08	D6 CIN 08	Blocked six kicks in college, including one to seal historic win at Michigan.
41	Ndukwe, Chinedum (S)	6-2	218	2	Notre Dame	14/2	D7 07	D7 CIN 07	Third-to-last pick in '07 draft recorded entry in every defensive stat.
24	O'Neal, Deltha (CB)	5-11	194	9	California	16/8	T,DEN 04	D1 DEN 00	Still led team with 16 pass breakups despite reduced role as No. 3 corner.
26	**White, Marvin (S)**	**6-1**	**199**	**2**	**Texas Christian**	**15/3**	**D4 07**	**D4 CIN 07**	**Bengals allowed Madieu Williams to leave as free agent due in part to White's play.**
SPECIALISTS									
17	Graham, Shayne (K)	6-0	200	8	Virginia Tech	16/0	W,CAR0 03	CFA NO 00	Has consecutive made field-goal streaks of 21, 17 and 13 in career.
19	Larson, Kyle (P)	6-1	204	5	Nebraska	16/0	CFA 04	CFA CIN 04	Has 81 punts inside the 20 in his career against just 29 touchbacks.
48	St. Louis, Brad (LS/TE)	6-3	243	9	SW Missouri State	16/0	D7 00	D7 CIN 00	Only member of team's 2000 draft class remaining with organization.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Travis Brown (WV SEA; New Mexico), Clyde Logan (Idaho State), Maurice Purify (Nebraska); OT Dane Uperesa (1, Hawaii); OG James Blair (Western Michigan); G/C Justin Britt (Alabama); C Kyle Cook (1, Michigan State); QB Jordan Palmer (1, Texas-El Paso); RBs Bradley Glatthaar (Cincinnati), James Johnson (Kansas State); FB Tyler Whaley (Ohio State); DE Titus Adams (1, Nebraska); DT Michael Marquardt (Arizona State); LBs Anthony Hoke (Cincinnati), Dan Howell (Washington); CB Simeon Castille (Alabama).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Bengals say they are committed to running the ball more effectively on offense. There was a lack of balance last season between the running and passing attacks so expect a heavy dose of Rudi Johnson or whoever ends up as the No. 1 back.
2. Lots of youth on defense. The Bengals could wind up with as many as 10 starters with less than five years of experience, led by rookie linebacker Keith Rivers and cornerbacks Leon Hall and Johnathan Joseph, the team's last three first-round picks.
3. Improved special teams coverage play. Last season the Bengals were repeatedly burned for big returns, especially early, a product of heavy turnover and injuries, but they have their core players returning intact this year and should benefit with better field position.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Rudi Johnson

Running back Rudi Johnson produced more than 5,100 yards and 45 touchdowns in a four-year span since getting into the lineup in 2003 thanks to injuries and disgruntlement on the part of Corey Dillon, but 2007 was Johnson's turn to face adversity.

A nagging hamstring injury forced him to miss five full games and limited him in a few others. The result was 497 yards gained and three touchdowns scored. He averaged 2.9 yards per carry and topped 100 yards in just one game; in the 51-45 loss in Week 2 at Cleveland.

Johnson has taken criticism that by getting into better physical shape — his listed weight in the media guide went from 228 in 2006 to 214 last season — actually hurt him on the field and that it led him to lose the aggressive style that made him so productive. Johnson has two years left on his contract and is due to make $3.2 million this season. He'd like to make it to the final season and has shown in off-season workouts that he is healthy and ready to prove his worth.

cautiously optimistic of him returning to his all-rookie form of 2005.

RATING: 6

SECONDARY

Safety Madieu Williams was allowed to leave in free agency, opening the door for second-year players Marvin White and Chinedum Ndukwe to continue the solid play they showed as rookies. Dexter Jackson doesn't have the range he once did, but he is smart and still knows how to deliver hits. Johnathan Joseph and Leon Hall will start at cornerback, but there is a question as to how well Deltha O'Neal will accept a diminished role. The good thing is that O'Neal is entering a contract season and he definitely wants at least one more payday, be it in Cincinnati or somewhere else, and he can still produce at a high level. The Bengals signed Kyries Hebert out of the Canadian Football League and he could push for regular playing time as well as help out the special teams.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Shayne Graham converted 31 of 34 field-goal attempts last season and has made 87.5 percent of his attempts (133-of-152) in five seasons with the Bengals. Punter Kyle Larson has become a very consistent weapon in the battle for field position. He had 21 punts inside the 20 last season compared to just three touchbacks. Long snapper Brad St. Louis is entering his ninth season with the team, making him the second-longest tenured Bengal behind 13-year vet Willie Anderson.

To say the Bengals were deficient in the return game last season would be putting things nicely. Heavy player turnover and injuries early in the season led to a lack of cohesion in both blocking schemes and coverage. They finished last in the league in punt returns, averaging a meager 4.9 yards. The punt and kickoff coverage teams both finished in the bottom half of the league rankings. Kick returner Glenn Holt has shown good burst, including scoring on a 100-yard return against Buffalo last season, but he needs to improve his ball control. He twice lost fumbles on returns.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

The biggest challenge facing Lewis will be what to do with Chad Johnson. The five-time Pro Bowler and all-time leading receiver in franchise history vows to sit out the season if he is not traded. The Bengals say they won't trade him and Lewis called Johnson's bluff to sit out during the off-season. The Bengals could lose the dynamic dimension Johnson brings to the offense and/or have to deal with a disruptive personality in the locker room. Neither situation bodes well.

RATING: Minus 2

—Kevin Goheen

2007 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 10	BALTIMORE (Mon.)	27-20
Sep. 16	at Cleveland	45-51
Sep. 23	at Seattle	21-24
Oct. 1	NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	13-34
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at Kansas City	20-27
Oct. 21	N.Y. JETS	38-31
Oct. 28	PITTSBURGH	13-24
Nov. 4	at Buffalo	21-33
Nov. 11	at Baltimore	21- 7
Nov. 18	ARIZONA	27-35
Nov. 25	TENNESSEE	35- 6
Dec. 2	at Pittsburgh	10-24
Dec. 9	ST. LOUIS	19-10
Dec. 15	at San Francisco (Sat.)	13-20
Dec. 23	CLEVELAND	19-14
Dec. 30	at Miami	38-25

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 11	at Green Bay (Mon.)	7:00
Aug. 17	DETROIT	7:35
Aug. 23	NEW ORLEANS (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at Indianapolis (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at Baltimore	1:00
Sep. 14	TENNESSEE	1:00
Sep. 21	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Sep. 28	CLEVELAND	1:00
Oct. 5	at Dallas	3:15
Oct. 12	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Oct. 19	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Oct. 26	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 2	JACKSONVILLE	1:00
Nov. 9	at Houston	12:00
Nov. 16	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Nov. 20	at Pittsburgh (Thu.)	8:15
Nov. 30	BALTIMORE	1:00
Dec. 7	at Indianapolis	1:00
Dec. 14	WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec. 21	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 28	KANSAS CITY	1:00

CLEVELAND BROWNS

2007 RECORD: 10-6 | **STADIUM: Cleveland Browns Stadium, 73,200, Grass** | **PROJECTED FINISH: 1st**

AFC NORTH

www.clevelandbrowns.com

AT A GLANCE

76 Lou Groza Boulevard
Berea, OH 44017
(440) 891-5000

TRAINING CAMP:
Browns Facility; Berea, OH

COACH:
Romeo Crennel, 4th year with Browns and as NFL head coach (20-28)

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER:
Phil Savage

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
T.J. McCreight

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Steve Sabo

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs
Rob Chudzinski	Offensive coordinator	5	3
Rip Scherer	*Quarterbacks	4	4
Steve Marshall	Offensive line	6	2
Mike Sullivan	Offensive line asst.	6	6
Anthony Lynn	Running backs	9	2
Dave Atkins	Sr. offensive assistant	23	4
Wes Chandler	Receivers	6	2
Alfredo Roberts	Tight ends	6	2
Frank Verducci	Off. quality control	8	2
Mel Tucker	Defensive coordinator	4	4
Randy Melvin	Defensive line	6	4
Mike Haluchak	Linebackers	23	4
Cory Undlin	Secondary	5	4
Richard McNutt	Asst. secondary	1	1
Bob Trott	Defensive assistant	9	4
Umberto Leone	Def. quality control	4	4
Ted Daisher	Special teams	5	2
Chris Caminiti	Asst. special teams	1	1
Tom Myslinski	Strength & Cond.	3	3
Alan DeGennaro	Strength & Cond.	2	2

*Assistant head coach

Suddenly Expectations High in Dawg Pound

Every move the Browns made over the last four off-seasons points to the goal of winning in 2008. They proved last year they could surprise opponents. Now it is time to see how they play when expectations are high.

For the first time in team history, the Browns were without a pick in the first three rounds of the draft. They were spent earlier on trades to acquire quarterback Brady Quinn and defensive linemen Corey Williams and Shaun Rogers.

The future can wait. The Browns have not been to the playoffs since 2002, yet a 10-6 finish in 2007, six games better than the year before, has whetted appetites in the Dawg Pound.

Seared into the memory of the Browns and their fans is Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger running past Willie McGinest last November to complete a Pittsburgh comeback from 21-6 down to a 31-28 victory. Rogers and Williams are supposed to prevent that from happening again.

The Steelers have beaten the Browns nine straight times. Coach Romeo Crennel was on the Browns' sideline for six of those games.

"Until we can beat Pittsburgh," Crennel predicted, "we probably won't win the division."

COACHING

Things change quickly. A year ago, Crennel's job was in jeopardy and defensive coordinator Todd Grantham was given a three-year extension. Grantham was poised to take over if Crennel stumbled.

Far from stumbling, Crennel was rewarded with a two-year extension through 2011. Grantham was fired. Rumors Grantham was undermining Crennel were rampant, but all Crennel will say is, "We're moving on."

Mel Tucker, an excellent teaching coach, was promoted from defensive backs coach to defensive coordinator. The Browns will remain a 3-4 defense, although they use a four-man front about 60 percent of the time.

The key coach is offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski. The Browns scored 402 points last season with his vertical offense. Another season like that and he'll be a head coach in 2009, which is another reason winning now is a priority.

RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Carson Palmer needed a year of seasoning after a year of watching to take the Bengals to the playoffs, so it is reasonable to assume Quinn might have some rough spots if he were the starter.

Quinn has a legion of fans, but he will be on the bench again. Derek Anderson threw 29 touchdown passes in 2007, just one shy of the team record set by Brian Sipe in 1980. But Anderson also threw 19 interceptions, and that is why he has skeptics.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
DE Corey Williams

Shaun Rogers is the squeaky wheel getting all the grease, but Williams is just as important. Williams replaces Orpheus Roye at left end. He can provide quarterback pressure and tie up the tackle on run plays.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
OG Rex Hadnot, LB Shantee Orr, DT Shaun Rogers, WR Donte Stallworth

KEY LOSS:
CB Leigh Bodden (16/16)*
Injuries have stunted Bodden's career, and though he had a sub-par season, he still started 16 games in 2007 and led the team with six interceptions. The Browns must find another source for those takeaways.

OTHER LOSSES:
LB Keith Adams (3/0), WR Tim Carter (16/0), CB Ricardo Colclough (0/0), OT Nat Dorsey (5/0), DE Bobby Hamilton (1/1), NT Ethan Kelley (13/6), DE Orpheus Roye (13/6), LB Matt Stewart (0/0), LB Chaun Thompson (16/0), NT Ted Washington (5/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
19; 11 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

Anderson still tries to complete passes when chucking the ball out of bounds would be more advisable and he still has to develop a touch on short passes. Yet to come from nowhere as he did last year when he took over for Charlie Frye in the second quarter of the opener was remarkable.

Anderson is in his fourth NFL season, but he has only 18 NFL starts. He should be better than he was last season just because of experience gained.

RATING: 7.5

RUNNING BACKS

One more piece of evidence the plan is to win now — the Browns re-signed Jamal Lewis after he rushed for 1,304 yards last season. The deal is for three years, and though Lewis might not have three years left in his legs, if he matches what he did last season the Browns should be playing in January.

The strong pass offense makes defenses hesitate to sneak a safety into the box. Cleveland is an ideal place for Lewis because he runs behind a strong offensive line and Chudzinski knows the value of a power running back like Lewis when the wind turns bitter in December.

Jason Wright and Jerome Harrison are adequate backups. Wright knows his role and does not pretend to be a full-time starter. Fullback Lawrence Vickers takes out linebackers as a lead blocker. He was eight of nine running the ball on third-and-one last season.

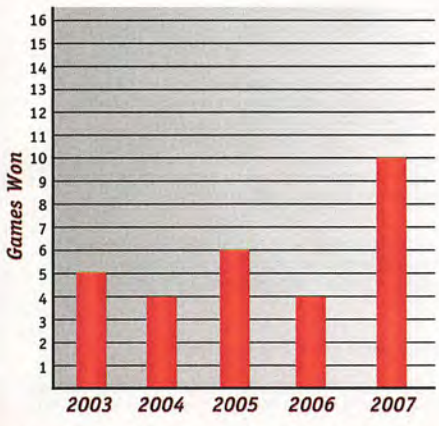
RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

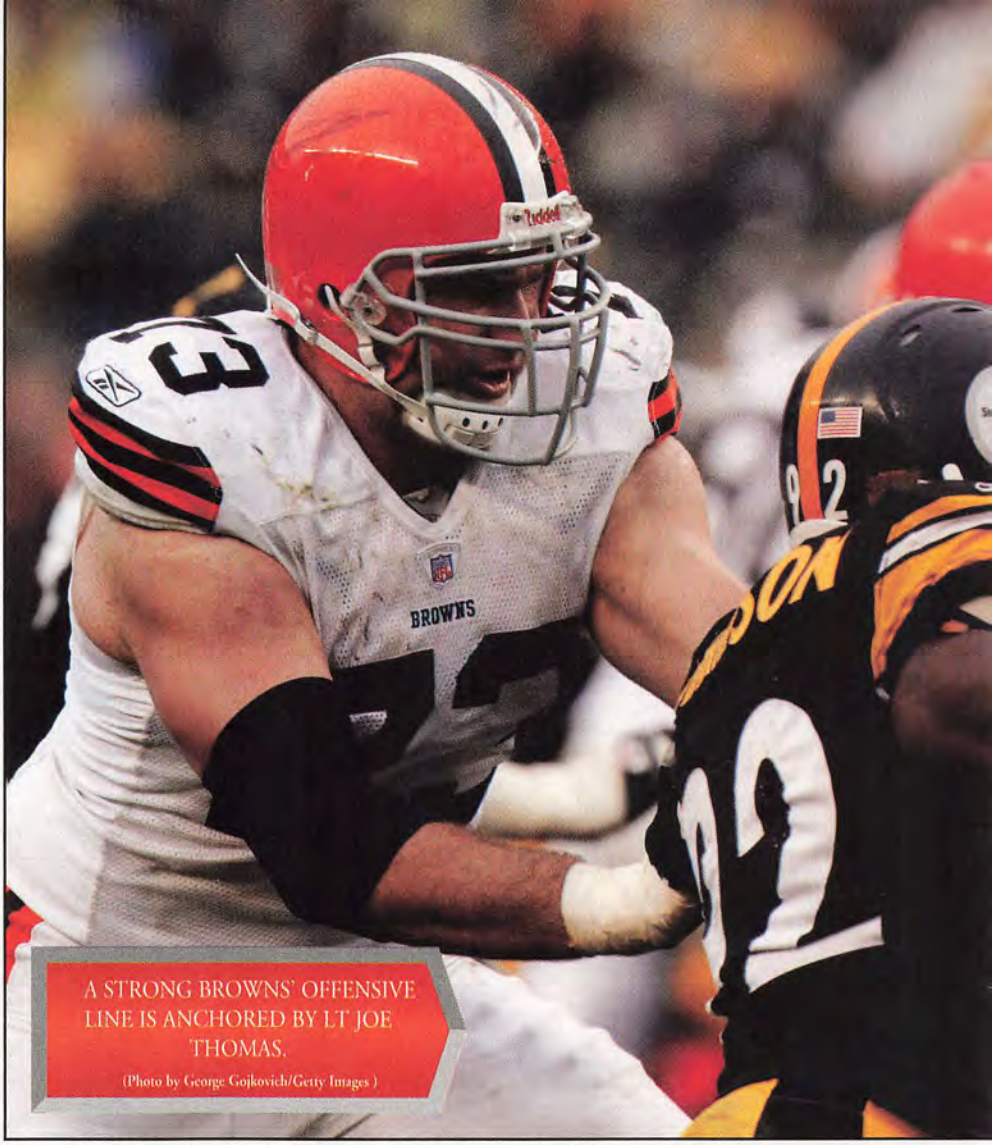
Another winter meant another off-season knee surgery for tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. Winslow hopes the "routine" clean-up will allow him to play pain-free for the first time in his career. Just in case, the Browns drafted pass-catching tight end Martin Rucker from Missouri.

The Browns did little else to the offense, but they did land Donte Stallworth to start at wide receiver opposite Braylon Edwards.

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*



A STRONG BROWNS' OFFENSIVE LINE IS ANCHORED BY LT JOE THOMAS.

(Photo by George Gojkovich/Getty Images)

The plan is for Stallworth to be the downfield threat, which should open passing routes over the middle. Where the Browns really improve is when they go to three receivers. Joe Jurevicius replaces Tim Carter in that role. Jurevicius caught 50 passes in 2007, 29 of them on third down.

The new combination might make it difficult for Edwards to repeat his 80-catch, 1,289 yards, 16-touchdown season of a year ago, but it should also mean better ball-control for the offense and even more production on the scoreboard.

RATING: 9

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A line that begins with Joe Thomas at left tackle and Eric Steinbach at left guard must be good, and this one is. Those two plus Hank Fraley at center, Ryan Tucker at right guard and Kevin Shaffer at right tackle formed a wall in front of Anderson last season. He was sacked 14 times in 15 starts. Anderson gets rid of the ball quickly, but he is the first to credit his offensive line.

Depth is not the issue it once was. Guard/center Rex Hadnot was signed in free agency. Guard/centers Seth McKinney and Lennie Friedman were re-signed, although the Browns are thin behind the starting tackles.

Two years ago, LeCharles Bentley was signed to anchor the offensive line at center. A torn patellar tendon in the 2006 training camp ruined that plan; Bentley has not played since. If he plays in 2008, it will be a bonus.

RATING: 9

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This was the weakest unit on the Browns for years, so general manager Phil Savage set about strengthening it by acquiring Williams and Rogers. Each had seven sacks in 2007.

Linemen in Crennel's 3-4 defense do not have to pile up statistics, but they do have to tie up the offensive linemen so the linebackers can make plays. Williams, Rogers, Robaire Smith and Shaun Smith will be part of a four-man rotation Crennel hopes will improve a run defense that allowed 129.5 yards a game and 4.5 yards a carry last season.

Depth will be an issue if any of the first four has a prolonged injury. Melila Purcell and Chase Pittman, rookies a year ago, are light for ends in a 3-4 defense. Rookie nose tackle Ahtyba Rubin and Louis Leonard will fight for one roster spot.

RATING: 6

Browns Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
85	Cieslak, Brad (TE)	6-3	262	2	Northern Illinois	2/0	FA 08	CFA BUFF 05	Cieslak could emerge as the blocking tight end to challenge Darnell Dinkins.
16	Cribbs, Joshua (KR)	6-1	215	4	Kent State	16/2	CFA 05	CFA CLV 05	Cribbs is most valuable as a return ace, but he is dangerous on offense.
87	Dinkins, Darnell (TE)	6-4	258	7	Pittsburgh	15/0	UFA,BLT 06	CFA NYG 02	Dinkins will have to be lights out on special teams to keep his job in 2008.
17	**Edwards, Braylon**	**6-3**	**215**	**4**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 CLV 05**	**More offensive weapons will make another 16-TD season difficult to match.**
82	Heiden, Steve (TE)	6-5	275	10	South Dakota State	16/6	T,SD 02	D3 SD 99	The Browns expect Heiden to make a full recovery from off-season back surgery.
5	*Hill, Efrem	6-0	188	2	Samford	0/0	W,TB 07	CFA CARO 05	Spent season on injured reserve; might not make it to training camp.
89	Hubbard, Paul	6-2	221	R	Wisconsin	0/0	D6 08	D6 CLV 08	Hubbard is being groomed to replace Joe Jurevicius sometime in the future.
84	Jurevicius, Joe	6-5	232	11	Penn State	16/12	UFA,SEA 06	D2 NYG 98	Jurevicius will be the third receiver in 2008 after making 16 starts in '07.
88	Kasper, Kevin	6-1	202	5	Iowa	0/0	FA 08	D6 DEN 01	The battle for fifth receiver is tight. Kasper is in for a major struggle.
86	Rucker, Martin (TE)	6-4	251	R	Missouri	0/0	D4 08	D4 CLV 08	Rucker and Winslow together at tight end can give opposing defenses fits.
83	Sanders, Steve	6-3	201	1	Bowling Green	0/0	FA 08	CFA CLV 06	If not for all the depth at this spot, Sanders could be the third receiver.
18	**Stallworth, Donte'**	**6-0**	**200**	**7**	**Tennessee**	**16/9**	**UFA,NE 08**	**D1 NO 02**	**Stallworth was signed in free agency to stretch the field with his speed.**
12	Steptoe, Syndric	5-9	195	1	Arizona	0/0	FA 08	D7 CLV 07	Steptoe can catch the ball. His speed could make him stick on the roster.
81	Wilson, Travis	6-1	215	3	Oklahoma	0/0	D3 06	D3 CLV 06	Wilson has been a disappointment for two years. Time is running out on him.
80	**Winslow, Kellen (TE)**	**6-4**	**250**	**4**	**Miami**	**16/14**	**D1 04**	**D1 CLV 04**	**Winslow has 171 catches in two years, but his right knee is a real concern.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
57	*Bentley, LeCharles (C)	6-2	309	7	Ohio State	0/0	UFA,NO 06	D2 NO 02	Bentley is continuing his attempt to bounce back from a 2006 patellar tear.
66	**Fraley, Hank (C)**	**6-2**	**315**	**9**	**Robert Morris**	**16/16**	**T,PHA 06**	**CFA PITT 00**	**The hard-nosed center was a captain last year and is a locker-room leader.**
62	Friedman, Lennie (G)	6-3	295	10	Duke	16/0	FA 06	D2 DEN 99	Re-signing Friedman was smart because he can play guard and center.
70	Hadnot, Rex (G)	6-2	325	5	Houston	16/16	UFA,MIA 08	D6 MIA 04	Hadnot can start at right guard if Ryan Tucker has to shift over to tackle.
78	Lee, James (T/G)	6-4	300	R	South Carolina State	0/0	CFA 08	CFA CLV 08	Lee has a chance to stick because the Browns need to find a backup tackle.
63	Louis, Cliff (T)	6-8	300	1	Morgan State	0/0	CFA 08	CFA CLV 08	Louis showed more than a glimmer of promise in training camp last summer.
68	*McKinney, Seth (C)	6-3	315	7	Texas A&M	8/8	FA 07	D3 MIA 02	McKinney provides the Browns starting experience in an inside backup role.
50	Philip, Marvin (C)	6-1	307	3	California	0/0	W,PITT 07	D6 PITT 06	With all the depth inside, Phillip knows he has an uphill climb ahead of him.
77	**Shaffer, Kevin (T)**	**6-5**	**325**	**7**	**Tulsa**	**16/16**	**UFA,ATL 06**	**D7 ATL 02**	**Shaffer found a new home after moving from left to right tackle last season.**
61	Sowells, Isaac (G)	6-3	325	3	Indiana	0/0	D4 06	D4 CLV 06	Injuries have stunted Sowells' career. Now he is buried on the depth chart.
65	**Steinbach, Eric (G)**	**6-6**	**295**	**6**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 07**	**D2 CIN 03**	**Steinbach has been the Browns' best free agency signing in their NFL return.**
73	**Thomas, Joe (T)**	**6-6**	**315**	**2**	**Wisconsin**	**16/16**	**D1 07**	**D1 CLV 07**	**Thomas has a tough act to follow after making the Pro Bowl as a rookie.**
72	**Tucker, Ryan (T)**	**6-6**	**320**	**12**	**Texas Christian**	**12/8**	**FA 02**	**D4 STL 97**	**Tucker was masher as a tackle, but he says he is better as a right guard.**
RUNNING BACKS									
41	Ali, Charles (FB)	6-2	265	2	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	13/0	CFA 07	CFA CLV 07	Ali hits like a fast freight train, but he is stuck behind Lawrence Vickers.
35	Harrison, Jerome	5-9	210	2	Washington State	8/0	D5 06	D5 CLV 06	The coaches want to see more from Harrison in practice and special teams.
31	**Lewis, Jamal**	**5-11**	**245**	**9**	**Tennessee**	**15/15**	**FA 07**	**D1 BLT 00**	**Lewis should have another 1,000-yard season in the Browns' powerful offense.**
47	**Vickers, Lawrence (FB)**	**6-0**	**252**	**2**	**Colorado**	**16/14**	**D6 06**	**D6 CLV 06**	**Vickers blocks, catches well, and on third-and-one he is almost automatic.**
29	Wright, Jason	5-10	214	3	Northwestern	16/1	FA 06	CFA SF 04	The smartest player on the team, can scoot when he gets the chance to play.
QUARTERBACKS									
3	**Anderson, Derek**	**6-6**	**230**	**4**	**Oregon State**	**16/15**	**W,BLT 05**	**D6 BLT 05**	**Anderson has a rocket arm, but he still has to work on his touch passes.**
11	Dorsey, Ken	6-4	220	6	Miami	0/0	T,SF 06	D7 SF 03	Dorsey is like a coach in a football helmet for Anderson and Brady Quinn.
10	Quinn, Brady	6-3	235	2	Notre Dame	1/0	D1 07	D1 CLV 07	Backup Quinn isn't quite ready to concede the starting job to Anderson.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Leonard, Louis (NT)	6-4	330	2	Fresno State	4/0	W,STL 07	CFA SD 07	At 330 pounds, Leonard will get the opportunity to dig in at nose tackle.
97	Pittman, Chase (E)	6-5	275	1	Louisiana State	0/0	FA 08	D7 CLV 07	Pittman is a light end in a 3-4 defense, but he can find the quarterback.
60	Purcell, Melila (E)	6-5	285	1	Hawaii	0/0	D6 07	D6 CLV 07	Purcell will have to take a giant step after a season on the practice squad.
92	**Rogers, Shaun (NT)**	**6-4**	**340**	**8**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**T,DET 08**	**D2 DET 01**	**Rogers is determined to shed the lazy player image he gained with the Lions.**
71	Rubin, Ahtyba (NT)	6-2	315	R	Iowa State	0/0	D6 08	D6 CLV 08	Rubin will be on the practice squad if he does not beat out Louis Leonard.
98	**Smith, Robaire (E)**	**6-4**	**320**	**9**	**Michigan State**	**16/16**	**UFA,CLV 07**	**D6 TENN 00**	**Robaire Smith is an active end and will benefit from Rogers at nose tackle.**
91	Smith, Shaun (NT)	6-2	325	5	South Carolina	15/11	RFA,CIN 07	CFA DALL 03	Shaun Smith will be part of a four-man rotation on the nose and at left end.
79	West, Zach (E)	6-5	305	1	Texas-El Paso	0/0	FA 08	CFA NE 07	Reliable depth after the starters is needed, so West has a chance to stick.
99	**Williams, Corey (E)**	**6-4**	**320**	**5**	**Arkansas State**	**16/9**	**T,GB 08**	**D6 GB 04**	**Williams had seven sacks last season and is a major upgrade at left end.**
LINEBACKERS									
58	Bell, Beau	6-1	244	R	Nevada-Las Vegas	0/0	D4 08	D4 CLV 08	The Browns linebackers are not physical. Bell can change that reputation.
54	**Davis, Andra (I)**	**6-1**	**250**	**7**	**Florida**	**16/10**	**D5 02**	**D5 CLV 02**	**Davis is hungry and vows to bounce back from a disappointing 2007 season.**
53	*Griffin, Kris (O)	6-3	245	4	Indiana (Pa.)	12/0	W,KC 07	CFA KC 05	Griffin plays well on special teams, but won't see much action from scrimmage.
96	Hall, Alex	6-5	243	R	St. Augustine	0/0	D7 08	D7 CLV 08	The rookie from St. Augustine is raw, but the coaches see rush potential.
52	**Jackson, D'Qwell (I)**	**6-0**	**240**	**3**	**Maryland**	**14/13**	**D2 06**	**D2 CLV 06**	**Jackson should be in the backfield more with Rogers playing in front of him.**
55	**McGinest, Willie (O)**	**6-5**	**270**	**15**	**Southern Cal**	**13/11**	**FA 06**	**D1 NE 94**	**If this is a playoff year, then McGinest's leadership will be an intangible.**
90	McMillan, David (O)	6-3	250	4	Kansas	15/0	D5 05	D5 CLV 05	McMillan helps on special teams. He is really a non-factor as a linebacker.
51	Orr, Shantee (O)	6-1	246	5	Michigan	8/2	UFA,JAX 08	CFA GB 03	The Browns need a versatile linebacker and expect Orr to fill the role.
56	Peek, Antwan (O)	6-3	255	6	Cincinnati	14/5	UFA,HOUS 07	D3 HOUS 03	Peek can get to the quarterback if he avoids nagging injuries this season.
94	Williams, Leon (I)	6-2	250	3	Miami	16/9	D4 06	D4 CLV 06	Williams closes on the ball quickly. He will press Davis for playing time.
95	**Wimbley, Kamerion (O)**	**6-3**	**260**	**3**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 CLV 06**	**Opposing defenses have caught on to Wimbley's quick scoot on the corner.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	*Adams, Mike (S)	5-11	196	5	Delaware	15/0	FA 07	CFA SF 04	Adams is a smart player and can sub if either starting safety is injured.
23	*Baxter, Gary (CB)	6-2	210	8	Baylor	0/0	UFA,BLT 05	D2 BLT 01	Baxter is determined to play after tearing both patellar tendons in 2006.
38	Cargile, Steve (S)	6-2	210	2	Columbia	12/0	W,DEN 08	CFA DLL 04	The Cleveland area native is in a fight with Adams to back up both safeties.
37	Davis, A.J. (CB)	5-10	193	1	North Carolina State	0/0	FA 08	D4 DET 07	Having been in an NFL training camp last year should help Davis get noticed.
39	Holly, Daven (CB)	5-10	185	4	Cincinnati	15/6	FA 06	D7 SF 05	Holly will be the right cornerback or nickel back in the season opener.
26	**Jones, Sean (S)**	**6-1**	**225**	**5**	**Georgia**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 CLV 04**	**Jones improved after a slow start in 2007. He can't let tight ends pass him.**
22	**McDonald, Brandon (CB)**	**5-10**	**184**	**2**	**Memphis**	**16/2**	**D5 07**	**D5 CLV 07**	**McDonald is quick. He makes up for being small by studying his opponent.**
21	**Pool, Brodney (S)**	**6-2**	**205**	**4**	**Oklahoma**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 CLV 05**	**Pool will have to lead in his second full season as a starting free safety.**
28	*Sandy, Justin (S)	6-0	210	2	Northern Iowa	0/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 04	Was injured all season in 2007, and is in a battle to stick around.
27	Sorensen, Nick (S)	6-3	205	8	Virginia Tech	9/0	FA 07	CFA MIA 01	Sorensen can play safety, but his biggest contribution is on kick coverage.
33	Terrell, Darnell (CB)	6-1	203	R	Missouri	0/0	CFA 08	CFA CLV 08	Terrell could be the rookie free-agent sleeper the Browns find every year.
24	**Wright, Eric (CB)**	**5-10**	**193**	**2**	**Nevada-Las Vegas**	**14/13**	**D2 07**	**D2 CLV 07**	**It did not take opponents long to stop testing Wright the rookie last year.**
25	Wright, Kenny (CB)	6-1	205	10	Northwestern State	7/1	UFA,WSH 07	D4 MINN 99	Wright was invisible last season and is unlikely to survive cuts this year.
SPECIALISTS									
4	Dawson, Phil (K)	5-11	205	10	Texas	16/0	FA 99	CFA OAK 98	He hit two game-winners in overtime in 2007. His leg-strength is underrated.
64	Pontbriand, Ryan (LS)	6-2	255	6	Rice	16/0	D5 03	D5 CLV 03	If one player on the Browns is automatic, it has to be Ryan Pontbriand.
15	Zastudil, Dave (P)	6-3	227	7	Ohio University	12/0	UFA,BLT 06	D4 BLT 02	Zastudil is fine now after a back injury caused him to slump last season.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; VA=Veteran Allocation.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Nathan Hughes (Alcorn State), Lance Leggett (Miami); TE Kolomona Kapanui (West Texas A&M); OG Nathan Bennett (Clemson); RBs Austin Scott (Penn State), Travis Thomas (Notre Dame); DT Brian Schaefering (Lindenwood); LBs Asa Matthews (Northern Colorado), Xavier Mitchell (Tennessee), Chase Ortiz (Texas Christian); CB Damon Jenkins (Fresno State); DBs Mil'Von James (Nevada-Las Vegas), Gerard Lawson (Oregon State); PK Jason Reda (Illinois).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. With Leigh Bodden now in Detroit, pressure will be on Daven Holly or Brandon McDonald, whichever one wins the starting job at right cornerback. The Browns gave up 29 touchdown passes last season. More pressure from an improved defensive line should make the secondary better.
2. The Browns should know by the end of September whether their role of favorite to win the AFC North is deserved. They dive into the schedule with home games against the Cowboys and Steelers and then finish the month with games in Baltimore and Cincinnati.
3. Last season, general manager Phil Savage said, "A hungry Jamal is a good Jamal" when Jamal Lewis was working on a one-year contract. Lewis isn't hungry anymore with a three-year contract, but at 29, duplicating his 1,304-yard season of 2007 will be a challenge.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Shaun Rogers

Trading a third-round draft choice and starting cornerback Leigh Bodden to Detroit for Shaun Rogers is a small sacrifice as long as Rogers delivers.

Rogers had seven sacks with the Lions last season, more than what the entire Browns' defensive line produced. He earned a reputation in Detroit as an incredible athlete for a man weighing upwards of 350 pounds.

But Rogers has another reputation — one he wants to leave north of the Ohio border. His critics say he gets lazy. He was accused of an ugly incident with a woman in a strip club, though he was never charged.

"Those things happened in Detroit," Rogers said. "Whatever happened in the past stays in the past. I'm excited to be here and get a new look, develop a new reputation and move on.

"My ability to disrupt the offense has been duly noted. Given the right situation, I can definitely do that on a more consistent basis. I take it on my shoulders with gladness. This is not the first time I've been on a team that was 30th in defense."

Rogers will play nose tackle when the Browns are in a three-man line. He is also learning right end.

LINEBACKERS

Savage hunted for a pass-rushing linebacker in free agency, but did not bag one. Consequently, Kamerion Wimbley does not have a counterpart on the left side. Antwan Peek was to fill that role last year, but was nagged by injuries.

Inside linebackers Andra Davis and D'Qwell Jackson should benefit from the improved defensive line. Davis' tackles slipped from 133 in 2006 to 104 last season as Leon Williams cut into his playing time. This season, Williams could take even more playing time from Davis, who will be a free agent next March. Rookie Beau Bell is raw, but he hits with a hammer.

Willie McGinest, in his 15th year, is back for one more season.

RATING: 6

SECONDARY

The Browns did not get a cornerback in the draft, and that decision might bite them in the fall. They gave up 29 touchdown passes last year and traded starting cornerback Leigh Bodden in the Rogers deal.

An improved pass rush, a year of experience for Eric Wright and Brandon McDonald plus safeties Brodney Pool and Sean Jones entering their second season together should improve this unit.

McDonald and Daven Holly will battle for the starting job at right cornerback. The loser will be the nickel back. The Browns will be looking for depth in training camp.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

If the defense improves, Josh Cribbs won't be setting any more records as a kick returner, but that is fine with him; a better defense means more chances as the punt returner.

Fans want to see Cribbs in the offense more, but he is so valuable as a returner and in coverage (he led the Browns with 23 special teams tackles), the coaches do not want to spread him too thin.

Ryan Pontbriand had only one bad snap last year, and that was in a gale in Cincinnati.

Dave Zastudil is trying to bounce back from a sub-par year punting. He suffered a back injury before the opener and never got untracked. A winning season could earn kicker Phil Dawson the recognition he deserves; he has scored 100 or more points in three of the last four seasons.

RATING: 9

INTANGIBLES

The Browns, along with the rest of the AFC North, face a much tougher schedule than in 2007. That's OK; the Browns are ready for it. They have been hungry since missing out on the playoffs last year. They want to satisfy that craving this season.

RATING: Plus 2

—Jeff Schudel

2007 RESULTS

Record: 10-6

Sep. 9	PITTSBURGH	7-34
Sep. 16	CINCINNATI	51-45
Sep. 23	at Oakland	24-26
Sep. 30	BALTIMORE	27-13
Oct. 7	at New England	17-34
Oct. 14	MIAMI	41-31
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	at St. Louis	27-20
Nov. 4	SEATTLE (OT)	33-30
Nov. 11	at Pittsburgh	28-31
Nov. 18	at Baltimore (OT)	33-30
Nov. 25	HOUSTON	27-17
Dec. 2	at Arizona	21-27
Dec. 9	at N.Y. Jets	24-18
Dec. 16	BUFFALO	8- 0
Dec. 23	at Cincinnati	14-19
Dec. 30	SAN FRANCISCO	20- 7

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	N.Y. JETS (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 18	at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	8:00
Aug. 23	DETROIT (Sat.)	4:00
Aug. 28	CHICAGO (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 7	DALLAS	4:15
Sep. 14	PITTSBURGH	8:15
Sep. 21	at Baltimore	4:15
Sep. 28	at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 5	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 13	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 19	at Washington	4:15
Oct. 26	at Jacksonville	4:05
Nov. 2	BALTIMORE	1:00
Nov. 6	DENVER (Thu.)	8:15
Nov. 17	at Buffalo (Mon.)	8:30
Nov. 23	HOUSTON	1:00
Nov. 30	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Dec. 7	at Tennessee	12:00
Dec. 15	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	8:30
Dec. 21	CINCINNATI	1:00
Dec. 28	at Pittsburgh	1:00

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

2007 RECORD: 10-7 | STADIUM: Heinz Field, 65,050, Grass/DD GrassMaster | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

AFC NORTH

www.steelers.com

AT A GLANCE

3400 South Water St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
(412) 432-7800

TRAINING CAMP:
St. Vincent College; Latrobe, PA

COACH:
Mike Tomlin, 2nd year with Steelers and as NFL head coach (10-7)

PRESIDENT:
Arthur J. Rooney II

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Kevin Colbert

COLLEGE SCOUTING COORDINATOR:
Ron Hughes

PRO SCOUTING COORDINATOR:
Doug Whaley

SPECIAL ASSISTANT:
Joe Greene

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Bruce Arians	Offensive coordinator	16	5
Ken Anderson	Quarterbacks	16	2
Larry Zierlein	Offensive line	7	2
Kirby Wilson	Running backs	11	2
Randy Fichtner	Receivers	2	2
James Daniel	Tight ends	16	5
Harold Goodwin	Off. quality cont./OL	5	2
Dick LeBeau	Defensive coordinator	36	11
John Mitchell	*Defensive line	18	15
Keith Butler	Linebackers	10	6
Ray Horton	Secondary	15	5
Lou Spanos	Def. quality control	14	15
Bob Ligashesky	Special teams	5	2
Amos Jones	Special teams asst.	2	2
Garrett Giemont	Strength & Cond.	27	2
Marcel Pastoor	Strength & Cond.	5	5

* Assistant head coach

Hope Rides High on Big Ben's Arm

Last season, the Steelers won their 18th division championship since the 1970 NFL merger, more than any other team. They will be hard pressed to repeat.

A bruising schedule, the most difficult in the NFL (.598 opponent records in 2007), the loss of Pro Bowl guard Alan Faneca and Cleveland's improvement could knock the Steelers out of the box. The Browns and Steelers tied at 10-6 last season with Pittsburgh earning the title based on two wins against Cleveland.

But the Steelers stood relatively pat since then, other than in the draft, while the Browns added more important pieces from the outside.

"We're a work in progress," coach Mike Tomlin said. "We feel good about some of the things we've been able to do, but ultimately we're measured by how we perform in the fall."

COACHING

Tomlin kept his entire first staff intact for a second season. As a young, rookie head coach he earned the respect of his players and the organization under difficult circumstances and quickly soothed player unrest. He made some rookie mistakes, particularly when to challenge calls and a bad one in the playoff loss to Jacksonville when he opted to go for a two-point conversion early in the fourth quarter from the 12-yard line. The fact his team won the division in his first season places more pressure on this one to succeed.

"I anticipate being better if for no other reason than the life experiences I had last year," Tomlin said.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

In ways all of their own, each of Ben Roethlisberger's four pro seasons has been spectacular — his one-of-a-kind 13-0 record as a rookie, the youngest quarterback to win a Super Bowl in '05, his quick recovery from a near fatal motorcycle accident in '06 and his record-breaking performance last season in which he set team records with 32 touchdown passes and a 104.1 passer rating.

It all convinced the Steelers to sign him up for eight years at $102 million this year. At 26, Big Ben is a Pittsburgh icon and should only get better.

"He's an awesome player," Tomlin said. "When you've got a guy with the capabilities he has, you have a chance to be in every football game."

Coordinator Bruce Arians unleashed him more in '07, and he can expect to cut loose more often in 2008, perhaps even use the no-huddle more often.

Veteran Charlie Batch, 33, won't be his backup forever, which is why they drafted Oregon's Dennis Dixon in the fifth round to ultimately become No. 2.

RATING: 9

RUNNING BACKS

By drafting Rashard Mendenhall of Illinois in the first round, the Steelers changed the dynamic

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
C Justin Hartwig
Hartwig will replace Sean Mahan, who lasted one year as the starter. Hartwig was released by Carolina, but the Steelers think he can help them.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Keyaron Fox, RB Mewelde Moore

KEY LOSS:
OG Alan Faneca (16/16)*
Seven-time Pro Bowl guard Alan Faneca signed with the Jets as a free agent. He's one of the few great ones the Steelers let get away in his prime and it will hurt them.

OTHER LOSSES:
LB Marquis Cooper (3/0), LB Clark Haggans (16/16), RB Verron Haynes (1/0), FB Dan Kreider (10/4), LB Cliff Kriewaldt (14/0), CB/KR Allen Rossum (15/0), QB Brian St. Pierre (0/0), TE Jerame Tuman (6/1), WR Cedrick Wilson (16/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 10 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

of their backfield and its potency as well.

The broken fibula in Willie Parker's left leg, suffered in the 15th game, kept him from winning the NFL rushing title, but should not hold him back any this year. He ran a 4.4 in March and ran in all the spring drills with his teammates.

No one questions anymore whether Parker is the real deal, not with three seasons over 1,200 yards rushing, two Pro Bowl selections and 321 carries last year. The addition of Mendenhall gives them more versatility and someone to not only share the duties with Parker, but without any dropoff.

Young Gary Russell and veteran Najeh Davenport will contend for No. 3. New pickup Mewelde Moore is a well-rounded third-down back, something else they haven't had lately. Carey Russell is their lone fullback.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

Big Ben's wish for a tall receiver was fulfilled when the Steelers drafted 6-4 Limas Sweed in the second round, and they believe he's the final piece to a strong receiving corps.

Santonio Holmes has blossomed into a good deep threat and, in fact, his 18.1-yard average in his second season led the NFL. Hines Ward still gets it done, especially in the clutch, and at age 32 the four-time Pro Bowler shows no signs of slowing down. He holds all the important Steelers career and season records.

Nate Washington, No. 3 last season, could take a back seat to Sweed.

The height and productivity comes from 6-5 tight end Heath Miller and his 6-6 backup, Matt Spaeth. Miller can block and catch and score touchdowns. Spaeth got off to a fast start as a rookie before cooling off, but should be used more often this year.

RATING: 7

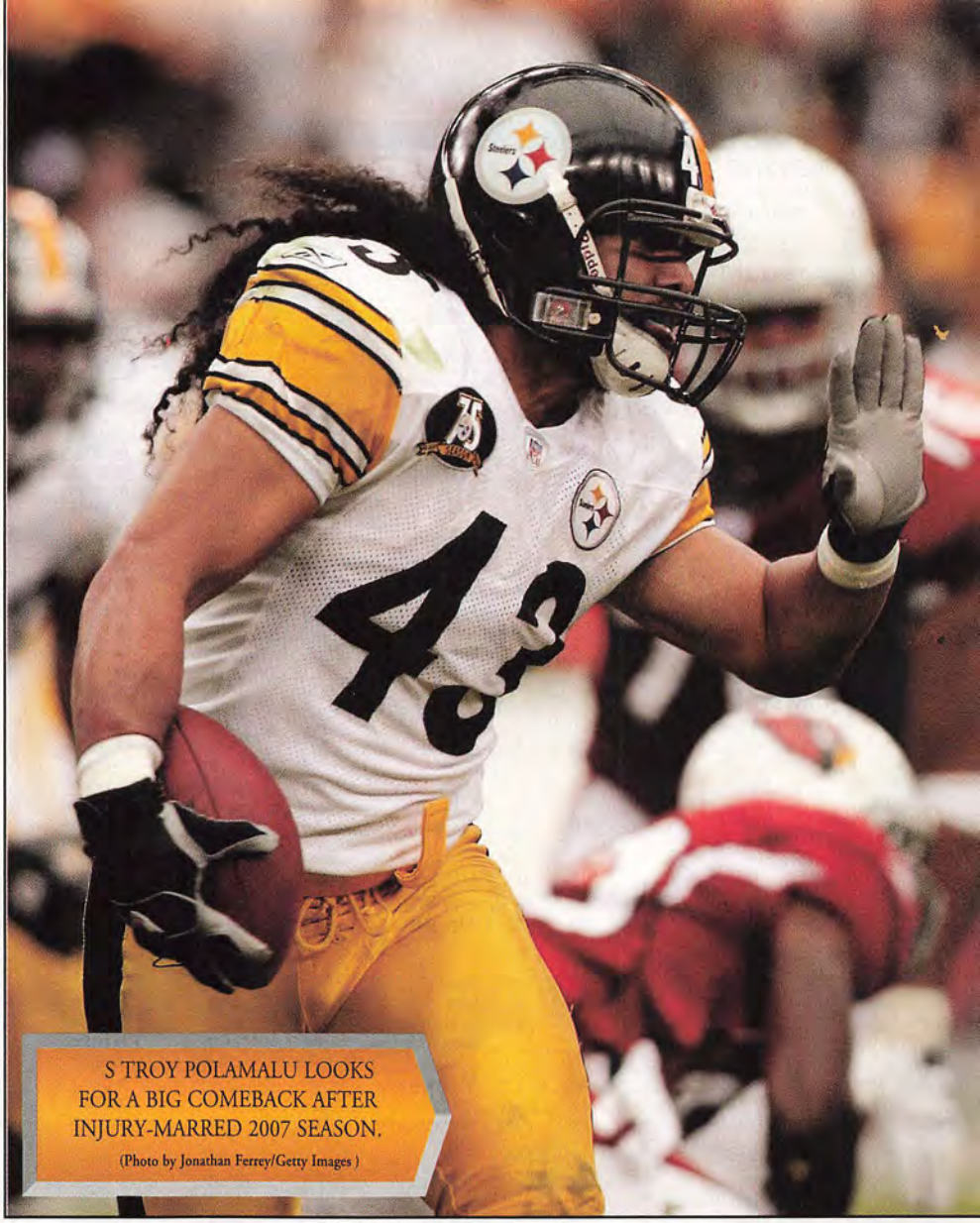
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

A trouble spot turned weaker when seven-time Pro Bowl guard Alan Faneca signed with the Jets and the Steelers did little to replace him. Chris Kemoeatu, who has played little since they drafted him in the fifth round in 2004, will get first crack to replace Faneca.

There were two new starters last season, and there will be two or three more this year. Besides left guard, a third starting center in the past three years should be in place. Justin Hartwig, released by Carolina, signed with the Steelers to replace Sean Mahan, who was signed last year to replace retired Jeff Hartings. The Steelers had three starting centers for 30 years and now will have three in three.

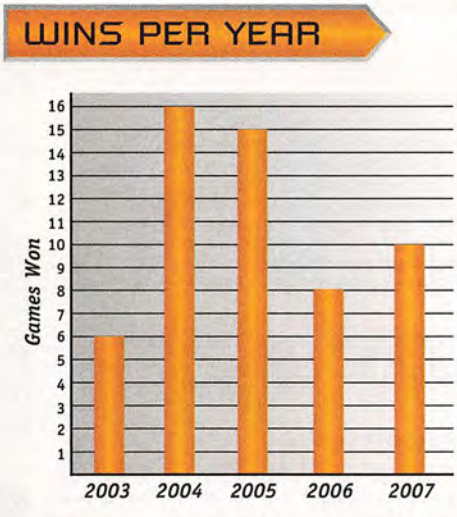
Marvel Smith, whose late-season back surgery should improve his health, is a mainstay at left tackle and Kendall Simmons returns to start at right guard. The mystery is at right tackle: Willie Colon last summer took the two-year-old job from Max Starks. Then, this spring the Steelers signed Starks to a one-year, $6.9 million contract as the transition player. Go figure. Is someone in the front office sending the coaching staff a message?

RATING: 6.5



S TROY POLAMALU LOOKS FOR A BIG COMEBACK AFTER INJURY-MARRED 2007 SEASON.

(Photo by Jonathan Ferrey/Getty Images)



** Made Playoffs: 2004, 2005, 2007*

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

What could be the best 3-4 line in the AFC is getting old and it has no depth, at least at the ends. All three starters will be over 30. Defensive end Aaron Smith returns from biceps surgery that cost him the final four games; he should be as good as new and they welcome him back — they lost three of those games without him. He's a monster at left end. Right end Brett Keisel is undersized, but quick and puts pressure on the quarterback, although he does not sack him much (7.5 the past two years). Four-time Pro Bowler Casey Hampton anchors at nose tackle, and Chris Hoke capably backs him up.

Depth at end, though, is shaky and there's a real need there to both spell their starters and groom someone to take over in the next few years, something they did not get in the draft.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

James Harrison became the latest outside linebacker to make his mark. He played so well as

Steelers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
81	Baker, Dallas	6-3	206	1	Florida	0/0	FA 08	D7 PITT 07	Spent rookie season on practice squad; has a shot at No. 5.
11	Bloom, Jeremy (KR)	5-9	180	2	Colorado	0/0	FA 08	D5 PHA 06	Ski bum on practice squad in '07, he'll get a crack at returning.
88	Dekker, Jon (TE)	6-5	250	1	Princeton	3/0	FA 07	CFA PITT 06	Steelers like to have three tight ends and he could be No. 3.
10	**Holmes, Santonio**	**5-11**	**189**	**3**	**Ohio State**	**13/13**	**D1 06**	**D1 PITT 06**	**Turning into big-play deep threat with 18.1 average per catch in '07.**
83	**Miller, Heath (TE)**	**6-5**	**256**	**4**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 PITT 05**	**Perfect in Steelers system as good blocker and outstanding receiver.**
15	Reid, Willie (KR)	5-10	186	3	Florida State	6/0	D3 06	D3 PITT 06	Held back by foot injuries, he could be No. 5 and is a return candidate.
89	Spaeth, Matt (TE)	6-7	270	2	Minnesota	14/5	D3 07	D3 PITT 07	Tall target, he serves as No. 2 tight end. Needs to improve blocking.
14	Sweed, Limas	6-4	220	R	Texas	0/0	D2 08	D2 PITT 08	Rookie, rangy second-rounder will compete to become No. 3 receiver.
86	**Ward, Hines**	**6-0**	**205**	**11**	**Georgia**	**13/13**	**D3 98**	**D3 PITT 98**	**He set most of the Steelers' career, season records and still going strong.**
85	Washington, Nate	6-1	185	4	Tiffin	16/4	FA 05	CFA PITT 05	No. 3 receiver, he needs to become more consistent catching the ball.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	Capizzi, Jason (T)	6-9	330	1	Indiana, Pa.	0/0	FA 07	CFA PITT 07	Big man who will compete for a backup spot. Injured in spring.
74	**Colon, Willie (T)**	**6-3**	**315**	**3**	**Hofstra**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 PITT 06**	**Claimed starting spot at right tackle in his second season, should improve.**
79	Essex, Trai (T)	6-4	324	4	Northwestern	3/0	D3 05	D3 PITT 05	Veteran backup who's done nice job when pressed into service.
62	***Hartwig, Justin (C)**	**6-4**	**312**	**7**	**Kansas**	**15/15**	**FA 08**	**D6 TENN 02**	**Free-agent signing, former starter for Titans, Panthers and likely now Steelers.**
66	Hills, Tony (T)	6-5	304	R	Texas	0/0	D4 08	D4 PITT 08	Drafted to become possible left tackle in the future.
68	**Kemoeatu, Chris (G)**	**6-3**	**344**	**4**	**Utah**	**16/0**	**D6 05**	**D6 PITT 05**	**Big man with big shoes to fill, he'll replace Alan Faneca at left guard.**
67	Lentz, Matthew (G)	6-6	320	2	Michigan	0/0	FA 08	CFA NYG 06	Street signing, he's big man who will get a chance in camp.
61	Mahan, Sean (G/C)	6-3	301	6	Notre Dame	16/16	UFA,TB 07	D5 TB 03	Started and disappointed as UFA signing in 2007. Undersized, overwhelmed.
65	Parquet, Jeremy (T)	6-6	321	2	Southern Mississippi	0/0	FA 07	D7 KC 05	Street signing, he'll get a chance to back up.
73	**Simmons, Kendall (G)**	**6-3**	**315**	**7**	**Auburn**	**16/16**	**D1 02**	**D1 PITT 02**	**Steady, starting right guard since his rookie season.**
77	***Smith, Marvel (T)**	**6-5**	**321**	**9**	**Arizona State**	**12/12**	**D2 00**	**D2 PITT 00**	**December back surgery cured a long-standing problem.**
72	Stapleton, Darnell (G/C)	6-3	285	2	Rutgers	0/0	CFA 07	CFA PITT 07	Made club as undrafted rookie; he'll get shot as swingman backup.
78	Starks, Max (T)	6-8	337	5	Florida	16/4	D3 04	D3 PITT 04	Two-year starter at right tackle, lost job to Colon last year. Will try again.
RUNNING BACKS									
44	Davenport, Najeh	6-1	247	7	Miami	15/1	FA 06	D4 GB 02	Versatile, top backup last year; his job could be in jeopardy.
38	**Davis, Carey**	**5-10**	**225**	**2**	**Illinois**	**16/7**	**FA 07**	**CFA IND 04**	**Only fullback on the team; he also has ability in short yardage.**
34	Mendenhall, Rashard	5-10	225	R	Illinois	0/0	D1 08	D1 PITT 08	Versatile, tough, fast; he'll back up, split time with Parker.
21	Moore, Mewelde	5-11	209	5	Tulane	12/0	UFA,MINN 08	D4 MINN 04	UFA, he'll serve as third-down back with ability to block, catch, run.
39	***Parker, Willie**	**5-10**	**209**	**4**	**North Carolina**	**15/15**	**CFA 04**	**CFA PITT 04**	**Three straight seasons over 1,200 yards and two-time Pro Bowler.**
33	Russell, Gary	5-11	215	2	Minnesota	3/0	CFA 07	CFA PITT 07	Good runner who stuck as undrafted rookie. Will compete with Davenport.
QUARTERBACKS									
16	Batch, Charlie	6-2	216	11	Eastern Michigan	7/1	FA 02	D2 DET 98	Excellent, veteran backup ready to keep things rolling if Ben's hurt.
2	Dixon, Dennis	6-3	195	R	Oregon	0/0	D5 08	D5 PITT 08	Rookie with outstanding talent coming off ACL surgery. Future No. 2.
7	**Roethlisberger, Ben**	**6-5**	**241**	**5**	**Miami, Ohio**	**15/15**	**D1 04**	**D1 PITT 04**	**Made first Pro Bowl, he's still on the rise at age 26.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Eason, Nick (E)	6-3	305	6	Clemson	16/1	UFA,CLV 07	D4 DEN 03	Veteran who was re-signed in March. Provides depth at a need area.
98	**Hampton, Casey (NT)**	**6-1**	**325**	**8**	**Texas**	**15/15**	**D1 01**	**D1 PITT 01**	**Four-time Pro Bowl nose tackle who plugs everything in the middle.**
76	Hoke, Chris (NT)	6-2	305	8	Brigham Young	16/1	FA 02	CFA PITT 01	Long-time, competent backup to Hampton, and is battle-tested.
99	**Keisel, Brett (E)**	**6-5**	**285**	**7**	**Brigham Young**	**16/16**	**D7 02**	**D7 PITT 02**	**Versatile, athletic end. He led team in pressures past two seasons.**
90	Kirschke, Travis (E)	6-3	298	12	UCLA	16/4	UFA,SF 04	CFA DET 97	Aging but capable backup re-signed in February.
95	McBean, Ryan (E)	6-5	290	1	Oklahoma State	1/0	FA 07	D4 PITT 07	Young prospect at end, but suffered foot stress fracture in offseason.
71	Paxson, Scott (T/E)	6-4	292	1	Penn State	0/0	FA 08	CFA PITT 06	Spent '07 on practice squad; could make strong roster bid as end or tackle.
91	***Smith, Aaron (E)**	**6-5**	**298**	**10**	**Northern Colorado**	**11/11**	**D4 99**	**D4 PITT 99**	**Outstanding 3-4 end, he's fully recovered from December biceps surgery.**
LINEBACKERS									
53	Davis, Bruce	6-3	252	R	UCLA	0/0	D3 08	D3 PITT 08	Converted end, he'll get some spot time as pass-rusher in dime defense.
51	**Farrior, James (I)**	**6-2**	**243**	**12**	**Virginia**	**16/16**	**UFA,NYJ 02**	**D1 NYJ 97**	**Underrated, consistently strong presence in middle of good defense.**
50	**Foote, Larry (I)**	**6-1**	**239**	**7**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D4 02**	**D4 PITT 02**	**Tough, smart run-stopper will have to hold off Timmons this summer.**
57	Fox, Keyaron (O)	6-3	235	5	Georgia Tech	10/0	UFA,KC 08	D3 KC 04	UFA, signed mostly to beef up poor special teams play, add depth.
54	Frazier, Andre (O)	6-5	255	4	Cincinnati	10/0	FA 08	CFA PITT 05	Big, outside linebacker who has been held back by injuries.
97	Harrison, Arnold (O)	6-3	241	3	Georgia	13/0	FA 05	CFA PITT 05	Top backup on the right side last season; also special teams player.
92	**Harrison, James (O)**	**6-0**	**242**	**5**	**Kent State**	**16/16**	**FA 04**	**CFA PITT 02**	**Team MVP in first season as starter and Pro Bowl player.**
55	Humpal, Mike	6-3	240	R	Iowa	0/0	D6 08	D6 PITT 08	Could provide help on special teams and depth on the inside.
94	Timmons, Lawrence (I)	6-1	234	2	Florida State	16/0	D1 07	D1 PITT 07	Top pick in '07; he'll compete with Foote for starting job.
56	**Woodley, LaMarr (O)**	**6-2**	**265**	**2**	**Michigan**	**13/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 PITT 07**	**May be team's best pass-rusher; he takes over as starter on left side.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
23	Carter, Tyrone (S)	5-9	195	9	Minnesota	16/5	FA 04	D4 MINN 00	Veteran backup, he'll be challenged for roster spot by rookie Mundy.
25	***Clark, Ryan (S)**	**5-11**	**205**	**7**	**Louisiana State**	**6/6**	**UFA,SEA 06**	**CFA NYG 02**	**Sharp, steady free safety battling back from midseason spleen removal.**
22	Gay, William (CB)	5-10	190	2	Louisville	16/0	D5 07	D5 PITT 07	Contributed as No. 4 cornerback as a rookie and should improve.
45	Lorello, Mike (S)	5-11	208	1	West Virginia	0/0	FA 08	CFA PITT 06	On practice squad in '07; he has a chance as backup.
37	Madison, Anthony (CB)	5-9	180	3	Alabama	9/0	FA 06	CFA PITT 06	Surprising performer for his size; he could make roster again.
41	Mason, Grant (CB)	6-0	198	2	Michigan	5/0	FA 07	D3 TB 04	Back for a second try to make Steelers roster this summer.
20	McFadden, Bryant (CB)	6-0	190	4	Florida State	13/0	D2 05	D2 PITT 05	Good No. 3 cornerback who continues to bid for starting job.
29	Mundy, Ryan (S)	6-1	215	R	West Virginia	0/0	D6 08	D6 PITT 08	Will get a real chance to make team and start at free safety some day.
43	**Polamalu, Troy (S)**	**5-10**	**207**	**6**	**Southern Cal**	**11/11**	**D1 03**	**D1 PITT 03**	**Injuries made '07 his worst season, but still made fourth Pro Bowl.**
27	Smith, Anthony (S)	5-11	192	3	Syracuse	16/10	D3 06	D3 PITT 06	Failed to hold onto job at free safety after Clark's injury last season.
24	**Taylor, Ike (CB)**	**6-2**	**195**	**6**	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	**16/16**	**D4 03**	**D4 PITT 03**	**Rebounded with good season after he was benched at end of '06.**
26	**Townsend, Deshea (CB)**	**5-10**	**190**	**11**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D4 98**	**D4 PITT 98**	**Keeps on ticking and holding off all comers. Possible free safety some day.**
SPECIALISTS									
3	Reed, Jeff (K)	5-11	225	7	North Carolina	16/0	FA 02	CFA NO 02	Strong. Had virtual perfect season, missing only from 65 and in the mud.
9	Sepulveda, Daniel (P)	6-3	230	2	Baylor	16/0	D4 07	D4 PITT 07	Booming kicks, should improve on a good rookie season.
60	Warren, Greg (LS)	6-3	252	4	North Carolina	16/0	CFA 05	CFA PITT 05	Rarely makes a poor snap; signed for three more years.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Kevin Marion (Wake Forest), Micah Rucker (Eastern Illinois), Matt Trannon (1, Michigan State), Gerran Walker (1, Lehigh); TEs Cody Boyd (1, Washington State), Dezmond Sherrod (Mississippi State); RB Justin Vincent (1, Louisiana State); C/G Doug Legursky (Marshall); FB Billy Latsko (1, Florida); QBs Mike Potts (William & Mary), Jared Zabransky (1, Boise State); DEs Kyle Clement (Northwood), Martavius Prince (Southern Mississippi), Jordan Reffett (Washington); LBs Patrick Bailey (Duke), Anthony Trucks (1, Oregon), Donovan Woods (Oklahoma State); CBs Roy Lewis (Washington), Travis Williams (East Carolina); LS Jared Retkofsky (Texas Christian); PK Julian Rauch (Appalachian State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Coach Mike Tomlin is determined to improve special teams, especially in the area of returns and kickoff coverage. Pittsburgh ranked 28th in covering kicks. They released Allen Rossum after one season, so a new return man will have to surface.
2. The Steelers have the toughest schedule in the league (.598 opponent success last season). While every team in the AFC North plays virtually the same schedule, the Steelers' two "wild-card" games are against San Diego and at New England.
3. Pittsburgh's Rooney family opted to stick with their grass at Heinz Field after investigating some of the artificial turfs available. Despite PR hits they took over its condition last year, they believe grass is safest for the players.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Troy Polamalu

The flowing locks from beneath the helmet conceal the name on the back of the jersey: Troy Polamalu. Last season, it appeared someone else wore that uniform. Polamalu, a four-time Pro Bowl strong safety and the most dynamic performer on Pittsburgh's defense, disappeared last season. He literally did not play five games because of various injuries and he was lost in their defense in much of the rest of them. Of course, he raised the bar quite high before then.

Big plays that were his trademark vanished in 2007, and the rest of Pittsburgh's secondary and defense suffered for it. That defense allowed late drives in five games, including the playoff loss at home to Jacksonville. What had been a strength became a weakness and Polamalu's subpar season played a big part in that.

He had a sprained MCL in his right knee and surgery on it after the season. The Steelers need desperately for him to return to form. He's made the Pro Bowl in each of his four starting seasons, although he bowed out of the past one because of his knee. He had 10 interceptions and seven sacks before he came up empty last season in both areas.

Joey Porter's replacement that he earned the team's MVP and his first Pro Bowl selection in his first season as a starter. LaMarr Woodley looks like an equally dynamic first-time starter on the left side, where Clark Haggans was allowed to leave. Woodley had four sacks in a part-time role, then added two more in their playoff game. He looks like an easy double-digit man as a regular.

Lawrence Timmons, their top draft pick in '07, will compete inside with steady performer Larry Foote and those two could alternate. Defensive captain James Farrior, 33, can still make all the plays and never comes off the field, although Timmons also could spot him at times this season.

The Steelers drafted UCLA defensive end Bruce Davis in the third round and will convert him to outside linebacker.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

An average secondary slipped last season because of injuries. That should change provided three-time Pro Bowl strong safety Troy Polamalu returns to form. He missed five games with injuries that affected him even when he did play. A dynamic, big-play safety, he had no sacks nor interceptions, then had post-season knee surgery. Their free safety remains in question because starter Ryan Clark had his spleen removed at mid-season and it's not known how strong he will be. Anthony Smith proved an inadequate replacement. Cornerbacks Ike Taylor and Deshea Townsend, joined by No. 3 Bryant McFadden, are decent. Townsend could move to free safety if they find another corner.

RATING: 6.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Jeff Reed made 23 of his 25 field-goal tries last season, missing only at Denver from 65 yards and from 44 yards against Miami in the slop at Heinz Field. He's as good as they come in the NFL, and it appears young punter Daniel Sepulveda will soon rise to the top as well. Sepulveda has a strong, booming leg and is excellent at dropping the ball inside the 20. They have an excellent snapper in Greg Warren. The other areas of special teams are poor — the return game and the kickoff coverage units were among the worst in the league and must get better.

RATING: 6

INTANGIBLES

A back-breaking schedule and the loss of two more leaders, Alan Faneca and Clark Haggans, will impact this team negatively. Yet, there were more reasons for upheaval in Mike Tomlin's first season and he not only weathered that storm, but won over people in addition to claiming a division title in his first season.

RATING: Even

—Ed Bouchette

2007 RESULTS

Record: 10-7

Sep. 9	at Cleveland	34- 7
Sep. 16	BUFFALO	26- 3
Sep. 23	SAN FRANCISCO	37-16
Sep. 30	at Arizona	14-21
Oct. 7	SEATTLE	21- 0
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	at Denver	28-31
Oct. 28	at Cincinnati	24-13
Nov. 5	BALTIMORE (Mon.)	38- 7
Nov. 11	CLEVELAND	31-28
Nov. 18	at N.Y. Jets (OT)	16-19
Nov. 26	MIAMI (Mon.)	3- 0
Dec. 2	CINCINNATI	24-10
Dec. 9	at New England	13-34
Dec. 16	JACKSONVILLE	22-29
Dec. 20	at St. Louis (Thu.)	41-24
Dec. 30	at Baltimore	21-27
Jan. 5	JACKSONVILLE (Sat.)	29-31

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 8	PHILADELPHIA (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 14	at Buffalo (Toronto) (Thu.)	7:30
Aug. 23	at Minnesota (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 28	CAROLINA (Thu.)	7:30
Sep. 7	HOUSTON	1:00
Sep. 14	at Cleveland	8:15
Sep. 21	at Philadelphia	4:15
Sep. 29	BALTIMORE (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 5	at Jacksonville	8:15
Oct. 12	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 19	at Cincinnati	1:00
Oct. 26	N.Y. GIANTS	4:15
Nov. 3	at Washington (Mon.)	8:30
Nov. 9	INDIANAPOLIS	4:15
Nov. 16	SAN DIEGO	4:15
Nov. 20	CINCINNATI (Thu.)	8:15
Nov. 30	at New England	4:15
Dec. 7	DALLAS	4:15
Dec. 14	at Baltimore	1:00
Dec. 21	at Tennessee	12:00
Dec. 28	CLEVELAND	1:00

AFC SOUTH

Might be NFL's Top Division from Top to Bottom

This was the league's only division with three teams winning 10 or more games last year. That could change because the division has compressed. The difference between top and bottom is getting smaller. Indianapolis is the five-time defending champion, but Jacksonville, Tennessee and, yes, Houston, are closing in.

This division has evolved into a meat grinder, similar to the North. The four teams have strength-of-schedules for 2008 that rank among the league's eight toughest.

The survivors at the end might be worse for the wear, physically and mentally spent. Last year, the three teams that made it into the AFC playoffs were a combined 1-3 in the postseason.

HOUSTON TEXANS

Is this the year the 2002 expansion franchise finally posts a winning record? A win over Jacksonville in the 16th game last year to finish .500 certainly raised optimism in the off-season.

The Texans addressed their suspect running back situation by adding Chris Brown in free agency and scatback Steve Slaton in the draft. But there are still questions at offensive line and on defense. The search continues for dominant tackles that can help the passing game on a consistent basis. Also, that final win against a Jaguars team resting for the playoffs was Houston's only one in the division.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Unlike previous years, the Colts didn't suffer major losses in free agency. They kept their offense intact by re-signing tight end Dallas Clark and then used seven of 10 draft picks on offensive players.

The Colts' ability to win their sixth straight division title rests, as usual, with their overall team health. More times than not last year they had fewer healthy players available on game days than their opponents. As long as Peyton Manning continues to suit up, however, you can mark them down for 11 wins.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

This team is consumed with Peyton Manning. As it should be. The Jags know they're not going anywhere until they defeat the Colts. Manning has defeated them nine of 12 meetings since the 2002 realignment, including twice last season.

Coach Jack Del Rio responded by mortgaging four draft picks to make trades for two of the draft's best pass rushers, Derrick Harvey and Quentin Groves. On offense, the Jaguars stabilized their own quarterback position by locking up David Garrard for six years and then added two big veteran receivers in Jerry Porter and Troy Williamson.

TENNESSEE TITANS

There's a school of thought that once you draft a franchise quarterback and commit him to the starting lineup, you'd better construct a good supporting cast soon as possible. The Titans are going about it somewhat unconventionally.

Instead of acquiring quality receivers for Vince Young to throw to, the Titans are cobbling dump-off targets. They added ex-Falcons tight end Alge Crumpler in free agency and used their first draft choice on speedy running back Chris Johnson, a complementary back generously compared to Reggie Bush. There are numerous candidates for Young to hand off to, but a suspect group to pass to.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Is the Peyton Manning-to-Marvin Harrison air show coming to a close?

Injuries limited Harrison to five games, 20 catches and one touchdown last year — his worst season in 13 NFL campaigns. He will be 36 when the new season starts and hardly played last season because of a knee injury obviously more serious that anyone cared to reveal.

2. Have the Jaguars done enough to corral the division from the Colts?

The bad news is they'll have to rely on rookie additions Derrick Harvey and Quentin Groves to make an impact immediately on defense from the end position. The good news is all they'll have to do is rush the passer.

3. Will the Texans finally crash through and post a winning season?

Their schedule won't help. Unless quarterback Matt Schaub turns into Peyton Manning, the guess here is they fall short for a seventh straight year.

4. What was the most positive off-season development for the Titans?

Getting something in a trade with Dallas for suspended cornerback Adam (Pacman) Jones. Simply releasing him would have been addition by subtraction. But the Titans still have to hope Jones is reinstated, otherwise they will give Dallas a choice in the 2009 draft.

5. Will this be Tony Dungy's last season as Colts coach?

He talked about retiring after the team's Super Bowl championship two years ago and almost opted out after last season. If the Colts return to the championship, Dungy might elect to leave on top this time.

—Tony Grossi

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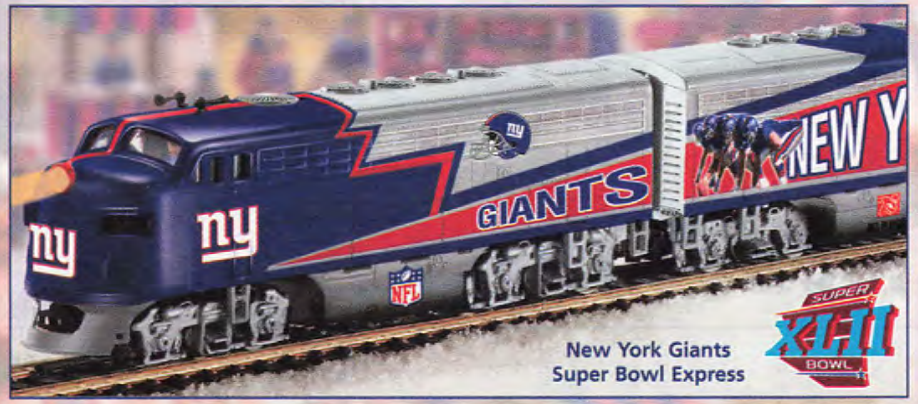

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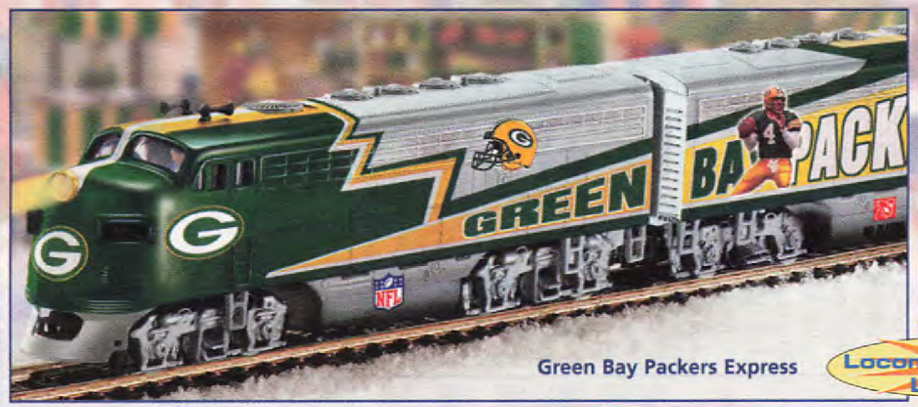

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- ❑ Indianapolis Colts Express 49196
- ❑ Kansas City Chiefs Express 49186
- ❑ Miami Dolphins Express 49098
- ❑ Minnesota Vikings Express 49228
- ❑ New England Patriots Express 49095
- ❑ New York Giants Super Bowl Express 49097
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AT A GLANCE

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TRAINING CAMP:
Texans Training Facility, Houston, TX

COACH:
Gary Kubiak, 3rd year with Texans and as NFL head coach (14-18)

GENERAL MANAGER:
Rick Smith

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Dale Strahm

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Bobby Grier

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Miller McCalmon

COORDINATOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Mike Maccagnan

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Alex Gibbs	Assistant head coach	24	1
Kyle Shanahan	Offensive coordinator/ Quarterbacks	5	3
John Benton	Offensive line	5	3
Frank Pollack	Assistant line	2	2
Chick Harris	Running backs	28	7
Larry Kirksey	Receivers	12	2
Brian Pariani	Tight ends	18	3
Mike McDaniel	Off. quality control	3	3
Tim Bender	Offensive Assistant	3	3
Richard Smith	Defensive coordinator	21	3
Frank Bush	Senior def. assistant	18	2
Jethro Franklin	Defensive line	8	2
Johnny Holland	Linebackers	14	3
Jon Hoke	Secondary	7	7
Ray Rhodes	Asst. secondary	28	1
Robert Saleh	Def. quality control	3	3
Perry Carter	Defensive assistant	3	3
Joe Marciano	Special teams	23	7
Richard Hightower	Special teams asst.	3	3
Dan Riley	Strength & Cond.	27	8
Ray Wright	Strength & Cond.	9	7
Virgil Campbell	Strength & Cond.	3	3
Everett Coleman	Strength & Cond.	3	3

Progress Has Texans Gunning for First Winning Season

It was clear the Texans were a franchise on the rise last season when Mario Williams was among the league leaders in sacks and did a hula dance on the field as a post-sack celebration. He may not have made it to his first Pro Bowl, but it's evident that he's on his way.

The Texans are also on their way to becoming a legitimate playoff contender. They finished 8-8 despite injuries knocking out some of their best players — quarterback Matt Schaub, running back Ahman Green, wide receiver Andre Johnson and cornerback Dunta Robinson — for significant amounts of time last season.

They will need a little luck to go their way this year, but the Texans should post their first winning record in franchise history and be in the playoff hunt for the first time in December. They may still be another season away from their first postseason appearance.

COACHING

Coach Gary Kubiak doesn't hesitate to bring in coaches he knows will add to his staff. After Mike Sherman, the assistant head coach/offensive coordinator, left to coach Texas A&M, Kubiak hired Ray Rhodes as the assistant defensive backs coach and Alex Gibbs as his assistant head coach/offense.

Rhodes will help develop a young group in the secondary and Gibbs will help implement the zone-blocking scheme he teaches so well. He will focus on helping improve the offensive line, especially in its run blocking.

Kyle Shanahan, 28, will take over as the offensive coordinator and coach the quarterbacks. Kubiak will continue calling the plays.

RATING: 7

QUARTERBACKS

The Texans changed their philosophy this season, and plan to carry three quarterbacks. With starter Matt Schaub missing five starts and leaving four other games early with injuries in '07, the Texans decided a third quarterback is not a waste of a roster spot.

They kept Sage Rosenfels as Schaub's backup and signed Quinn Gray. Rosenfels played extremely well in Schaub's place last year, winning four of his five starts and throwing for 15 touchdowns. Schaub should be more comfortable in his second season, and will post better numbers if he can stay healthy. He completed 66.4 percent of his passes and threw nine touchdowns and nine interceptions.

RATING: 7

RUNNING BACKS

The Texans typically look good in the off-season at running back. Everything then falls apart when the regular season starts. Ahman Green injured

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
CB Jacques Reeves

With Dunta Robinson's injury forcing him to miss at least half the season, Reeves' experience and playmaking ability will be critical. They need him to start opposite of second-year CB Fred Bennett.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Kevin Bentley, RB Chris Brown, S Nick Ferguson, QB Quinn Gray, C Chris Myers, LB Chaun Thompson

KEY LOSS:
LB Danny Clark (13/8)*
Clark brought a physical, hard-hitting presence to the linebacker corps last season. While not boasting exceptional speed, he made big plays and added a veteran presence to a young group.

OTHER LOSSES:
DB Roc Alexander (0/0), LB Charlie Anderson(16/5), LB Shawn Barber (6/0), S/LB Michael Boulware (16/0), RB Ron Dayne (13/8), C Mike Flanagan (14/13), CB Von Hutchins (16/15), DT Cedric Killings (2/0), WR Jerome Mathis (3/0), C Steve McKinney (3/3), TE Jeb Putzier (8/1), DB Jason Simmons (1/1), DB Dexter Wynn (8/1)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 9 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

his knee in the first game of last season and was never able to play a complete game. He is back and healthy this season, and the Texans have added help. Ideally, the Texans will use Green for the bulk of carries since he fits so well in the zone-blocking scheme, where running backs can make just one cut. They signed Chris Brown, who can spell Green during a game.

Rookie Steve Slaton will come off the bench as their third-down back. He will add speed and playmaking ability, which the Texans have lacked the past two seasons. Chris Taylor and Darius Walker will fight for space on the roster, and Vonta Leach will return as a solid fullback.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

With the re-signing of Andre' Davis in the offseason, this group returns completely intact, making it the most solid unit on the entire team. They have speed, playmaking ability and depth.

Pro Bowl receiver Andre Johnson anchors the group. He missed seven games last year with a knee injury, but still finished with 851 receiving yards and eight touchdowns. With the improvement of Kevin Walter, Davis and Jacoby Jones, Johnson should attract less defenders and have more opportunities for big plays this year.

Walter thrived as a first-time starter, finishing with 800 yards and four touchdowns. He doesn't have breakaway speed, but he can get downfield well and has great hands. Davis finished among the league leaders with an average of 17.7 yards per catch.

RATING: 9

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The line is expected to make major improvement with Alex Gibbs' involvement. The run blocking has really struggled the past two seasons, while the pass protection has improved. Center Chris Myers will take over the starting job, which alone will give a boost to the running game. Chester Pitts and Fred Weary will try to retain their starting jobs at guard, but each must show they can remain consistent. Weary was in the midst of his best season last year until he broke his leg. He is expected to be 100 percent by training camp.

Mike Brisiel played well in place of Weary, and Charles Spencer, Brandon Frye and Kasey Studdard will all be in a heated competition for roster spots. Spencer, who has spent two years rehabilitating a serious knee injury, is working to make the transition from left tackle to guard.

Eric Winston has shown tremendous improvement at right tackle, and Ephraim Salaam will be used to help groom rookie Duane Brown. The starting job will remain Salaam's until Brown gets comfortable and Salaam's play starts to fall off.

RATING: 6

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Amobi Okoye, who turns 21 in June, could be the key to whether the defensive line makes its necessary strides this season. Williams went from 4.5 sacks his rookie season to 14 sacks in 2007. The Texans must get pressure on the opposing quarterback from somewhere other than Williams this year, if the defense is going to contain offenses.

The Texans will continue to use an eight-man rotation with Travis Johnson and Anthony Maddox fighting for the tackle job next to Okoye. Johnson is a solid run stopper, while Maddox has the quickness to get after the passer. Anthony Weaver will start opposite of Williams, but Weaver is only used as a run stopper. N.D. Kalu will be used as their situational pass rusher again.

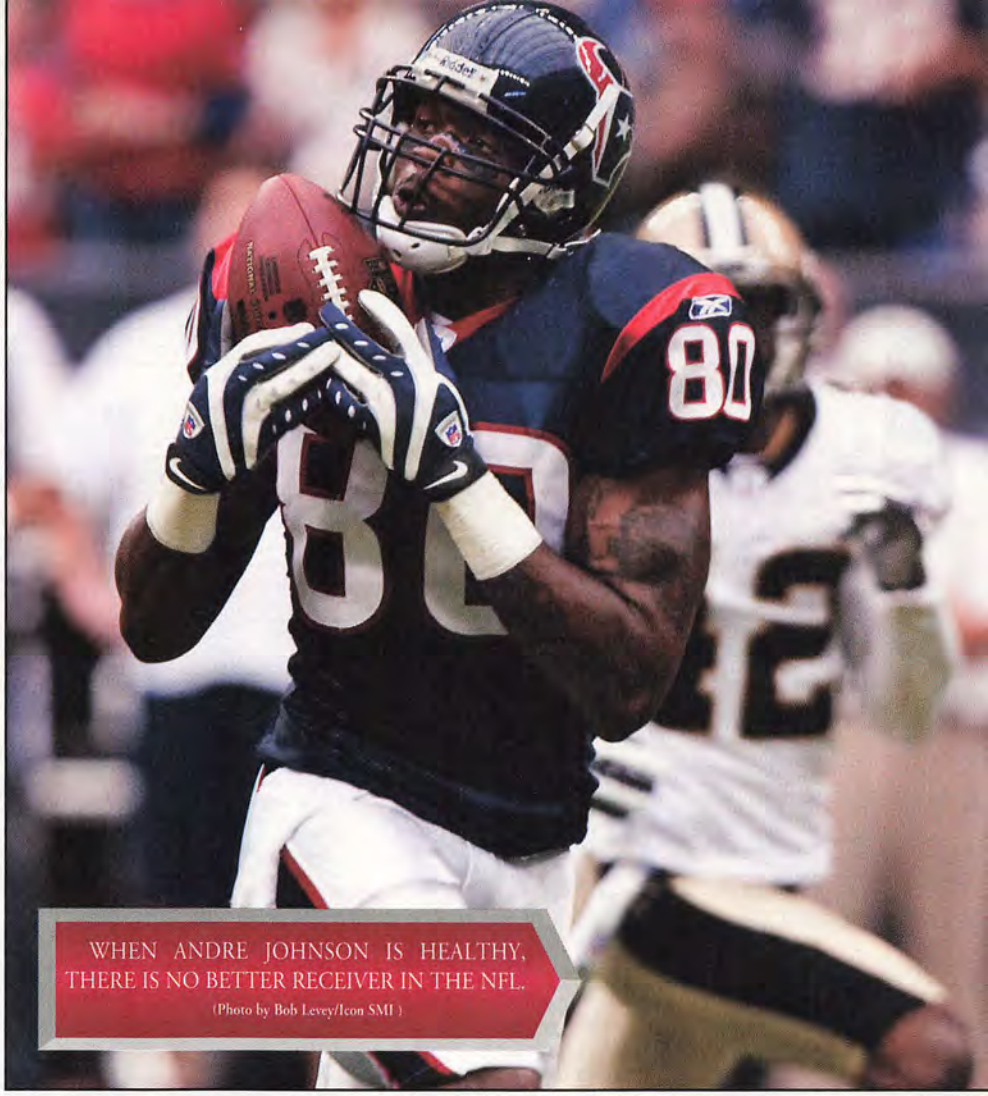
Rookie Frank Okam will be the project on the line. If the coaches can get him to play up to his potential, he will complement their undersized tackles well.

RATING: 7

LINEBACKERS

DeMeco Ryans has emerged as the leader of the defense and has a knack for getting to the ball. He is strong in coverage and against the run, but he also adds a pass-rush threat for the Texans. Morlon Greenwood returns at weak-side linebacker, and plays well alongside Ryans. He is solid at stopping the run.

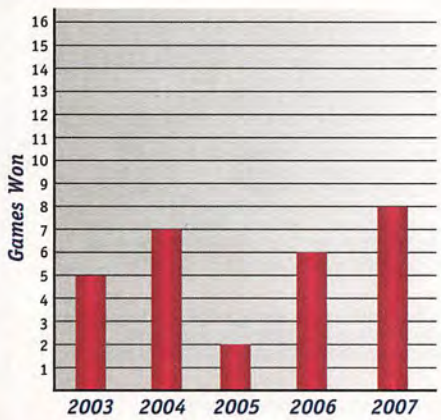
The Texans will have a new starter at strong-side linebacker with Zac Diles getting the early edge. He impressed coaches with his work ethic, knowledge of the game and athleticism as a rookie, earning the backup job to Ryans. Now, he will try to win the



WHEN ANDRE JOHNSON IS HEALTHY, THERE IS NO BETTER RECEIVER IN THE NFL.

(Photo by Bob Levey/Icon SMI)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: None*

Texans Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	Anderson, David	5-10	197	3	Colorado State	8/0	FA 07	D7 HOUS 06	He is a special teams player who hopes to become the fifth receiver again.
87	Bruener, Mark (TE)	6-4	252	14	Washington	14/1	FA 04	D1 PITT 95	Returns for his 14th season as a primary blocker in two-tight end sets.
81	**Daniels, Owen (TE)**	**6-3**	**243**	**3**	**Wisconsin**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 HOUS 06**	**Great target for quarterbacks, but must hold onto the ball better.**
11	Davis, Andre'	6-1	194	7	Virginia Tech	14/8	UFA,BUFF 07	D2 CLV 02	Returns as the No. 3 receiver, but is sure to catch more balls than last year.
85	Dreessen, Joel (TE)	6-4	260	3	Colorado State	13/0	FA 07	D6 NYJ 05	Improving as a blocker/receiver; scored two TDs on four catches in '07.
80	**Johnson, Andre**	**6-3**	**223**	**6**	**Miami**	**9/9**	**D1 03**	**D1 HOUS 03**	**Led the league in '07 by averaging 94.6 receiving yards per game.**
12	Jones, Jacoby (KR)	6-2	207	2	Lane	14/3	D4 07	D3 HOU 07	Will remain the team's punt returner and their No. 4 receiver.
17	McCoy, LeRon	6-1	219	4	Indiana, Pa.	0/0	FA 08	D7 ARIZ 05	Hopes to make roster after not playing since the 2005 season.
83	**Walter, Kevin**	**6-3**	**215**	**6**	**Eastern Michigan**	**16/15**	**RFA,CIN 06**	**D7 NYG 03**	**Played well in '07, proving he is a solid starter in this league.**
86	Williams, Harry	6-2	196	1	Tuskegee	2/0	FA 08	D7 NYJ 05	Hopes to crack the roster this season; spent last year on practice squad.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	Black, Jordan (T)	6-5	298	6	Notre Dame	8/0	UFA,KC 07	D5 KC 03	Getting crowded at the position, and he will have a tough time.
65	Brisiel, Mike (G)	6-5	296	1	Colorado State	4/4	FA 07	CFA HOUS 06	Played solid as starter in place of Weary in 2007; could be a future starter.
76	Brown, Duane (T)	6-4	315	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D1 08	D1 HOUS 08	Texans will see how long it takes before he is ready to be an NFL starter.
78	Butler, Rashad (T)	6-4	270	3	Miami	8/0	W,CARO 07	D3 CARO 06	Solid swing tackle, who played well in limited action last season.
50	Eslinger, Greg (C)	6-3	291	2	Minnesota	0/0	FA 08	D6 DEN 06	Practice squad player who will vie for a backup job to Chris Myers.
75	Frye, Brandon (T)	6-4	298	2	Virginia Tech	0/0	FA 07	D5 HOU 07	Switched to guard last season; will be in heated battle for roster spot.
62	*Jackson, Scott (T)	6-4	302	4	Brigham Young	0/0	FA 06	CFA TB 04	Spent last season on IR; will try to earn backup job this season.
55	**Myers, Chris (C/G)**	**6-4**	**300**	**4**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**T,DEN 08**	**D6 DEN 05**	**Newcomer who already knows the system well because of Denver.**
58	Okobi, Chukky (C)	6-1	305	7	Purdue	1/0	FA 08	D5 PITT 01	Veteran with extensive experience will try to learn backup job to Myers.
69	**Pitts, Chester (G)**	**6-4**	**318**	**7**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**D2 02**	**D2 HOUS 02**	**He has started every game in franchise history; hopes to keep streak alive.**
74	**Salaam, Ephraim (T)**	**6-7**	**298**	**11**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**UFA,JAX 06**	**D7 ATL 98**	**He has made 30 consecutive starts; will try to stave off rookie Brown.**
77	*Spencer, Charles (T)	6-4	338	3	Pittsburgh	0/0	D3 06	D3 HOUS 06	Moving to guard; attempting to come back from two-year-old knee injury.
64	Studdard, Kasey (G)	6-3	299	2	Texas	3/0	D6 07	D6 HOUS 07	Must show improvement at guard to earn a spot on the roster.
70	***Weary, Fred (G)**	**6-4**	**298**	**7**	**Tennessee**	**12/12**	**D3 02**	**D3 HOUS 02**	**Team says he has made a miraculous recovery from his broken leg.**
63	*White, Chris (C)	6-2	284	4	Southern Mississippi	6/0	FA 07	CFA GB 05	He's a versatile backup, able to play center or guard on game days.
73	**Winston, Eric (T)**	**6-5**	**310**	**3**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D3 06**	**D3 HOUS 06**	**Continues showing improvement; becoming a solid right tackle.**
RUNNING BACKS									
47	*Abbate, Jon (FB)	5-11	245	2	Wake Forest	0/0	FA 08	CFA HOUS 07	Switched from linebacker to fullback; will compete with Cook for backup job.
33	Beach, Arliss	5-10	219	2	Kentucky	0/0	FA 08	CFA GB 06	Practice squad player who will struggle to crack the active roster.
29	Brown, Chris	6-3	220	6	Colorado	12/1	UFA TENN 08	D3 TENN 03	Capable starter who will be used mostly to give Green rest during games.
43	Cook, Jameel (FB)	5-10	238	8	Illinois	16/0	UFA,TB 06	D6 TB 01	Good special teams player capable of replacing Leach if needed.
30	***Green, Ahman**	**6-0**	**220**	**10**	**Nebraska**	**6/5**	**UFA,GB 07**	**D3 SEA 98**	**He hopes to rebound from knee injury that cost him most of '07 season.**
44	**Leach, Vonta (FB)**	**6-0**	**253**	**5**	**East Carolina**	**16/12**	**FA 06**	**CFA GB 04**	**Physical blocker, who used to play linebacker; fits well in offense.**
20	Slaton, Steve	509	197	R	West Virginia	0/0	D3 08	D3 HOUS 08	Ideally, the Texans will use him off the bench as their third-down back.
27	*Taylor, Chris	6-0	224	2	Indiana	0/0	FA 06	CFA HOUS 06	Physical running back who spent all of last season on IR.
37	Walker, Darius	5-11	204	2	Notre Dame	4/2	FA 07	CFA HOUS 07	Small back, who has a good burst, but is in crowded group of backs.
QUARTERBACKS									
7	Boyd, Shane	6-1	222	1	Kentucky	0/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 05	He will struggle to make team with the addition of Gray.
10	Brink, Alex	6-2	212	R	Washington State	0/0	D7 08	D7 HOUS 08	Solid college quarterback who will try to earn spot on practice squad.
5	Gray, Quinn	6-3	246	5	Florida A&M	8/4	UFA,JAX 08	CFA JAX 02	Experienced, solid quarterback who will be the team's third option.
18	Rosenfels, Sage	6-4	222	8	Iowa State	9/5	UFA,MIA 06	D4 WSH 01	Will push Schaub in practice; has proven he's very capable of starting.
8	**Schaub, Matt**	**6-5**	**231**	**5**	**Virginia**	**11/11**	**T,ATL 07**	**D3 ATL 04**	**Must stay on the field this season and prove he is the team's best QB.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Bulman, Tim (T)	6-4	279	2	Boston College	2/0	FA 07	CFA ARIZ 05	Limited playing experience; will try to move into eight-man rotation on line.
96	Cochran, Earl (E)	6-5	281	3	Alabama State	15/1	FA 06	CFA GB 03	Solid, athletic end, who could push Weaver for playing time.
99	**Johnson, Travis (T)**	**6-3**	**303**	**4**	**Florida State**	**15/13**	**D1 05**	**D1 HOUS 05**	**Improving; plays well against the run, but has little pass-rush ability.**
94	Kalu, N.D. (E)	6-3	257	12	Rice	15/1	UFA,PHA 06	D5 PHA 97	Returns as a situational pass-rusher on the opposite end of Williams.
95	Maddox, Anthony (T)	6-1	290	4	Delta State	16/3	FA 06	D4 JAX 04	Will push Johnson for playing time; has good pass-rush ability.
79	Okam, Frank (T)	6-5	320	R	Texas	0/0	D5 08	D5 HOUS 08	Big body capable of being impact player this season in run stopping.
91	**Okoye, Amobi (T)**	**6-2**	**302**	**2**	**Louisville**	**16/14**	**D1 07**	**D1 HOU 07**	**Explosive, disruptive tackle, who had 5.5 sacks as a rookie.**
97	Powell, Eric (E)	6-3	284	2	Florida State	1/0	FA 08	CFA GB 03	His experience comes mostly from NFL Europe and practice squads.
66	Robinson, DeJuan (E)	6-3	304	1	Mississippi State	0/0	FA 07	CFA HOUS 07	On the practice squad last season; has more eligibility remaining.
98	**Weaver, Anthony (E)**	**6-3**	**276**	**7**	**Notre Dame**	**15/13**	**UFA,BLT 06**	**D2 BLT 02**	**Good run stopper who lacks pass-rush skills Texans need.**
90	**Williams, Mario (E)**	**6-6**	**286**	**3**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 HOUS 06**	**Finished third in the NFL in sacks with 14; will try to top it this year.**
92	Zgonina, Jeff (T)	6-2	276	15	Purdue	16/1	UFA,MIA 07	D7 PITT 93	Good, veteran run stopper on a young defensive line.
LINEBACKERS									
52	Adibi, Xavier	6-2	220	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D4 08	D4 HOUS 08	Will compete for playing time; a little undersized, but has youth and speed.
57	Bentley, Kevin (O)	6-0	238	7	Northwestern	14/2	UFA,SEA 08	D4 CLV 02	Able to back up all three positions; will compete for starting job on outside.
54	**Diles, Zac (M)**	**6-2**	**240**	**2**	**Kansas State**	**11/0**	**D7 07**	**D7 HOUS 07**	**Undersized, but athletic; early favorite to win job on strong side.**
56	**Greenwood, Morlon (O)**	**6-0**	**241**	**8**	**Syracuse**	**16/15**	**UFA,MIA 05**	**D3 MIA 01**	**Remains starter at weak side, plays the run well; rarely gets beat.**
59	**Ryans, DeMeco (M)**	**6-1**	**239**	**3**	**Alabama**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 HOUS 06**	**Emerging as one of the best middle linebackers in the league.**
51	Thompson, Chaun (M)	6-2	255	6	West Texas A&M	16/0	UFA,CLV 08	D2 CLV 03	Has played in every game of his pro career; good pass-rusher.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
34	Barber, Dominique (S)	6-0	210	R	Minnesota	0/0	D6 08	D6 HOUS 08	Marion Barber's younger brother will likely add depth at safety.
32	**Bennett, Fred (CB)**	**6-1**	**194**	**2**	**South Carolina**	**14/8**	**D4 07**	**D4 HOUS 07**	**Must step up his game without Robinson across from him.**
24	**Brown, C.C. (S)**	**6-0**	**208**	**4**	**Louisiana-Lafayette**	**16/16**	**D6 05**	**D6 HOUS 05**	**Coming off his best season as a pro with 83 tackles, two forced fumbles and an interception.**
40	Cox, Curome (S)	6-1	204	4	Maryland	14/0	FA 07	CFA ATL 04	Helped add depth at safety midway through last season.
47	**Demps, Will (S)**	**6-0**	**208**	**7**	**San Diego State**	**15/8**	**FA 07**	**CFA BLT 02**	**Physical safety who started eight games toward the end of '07.**
26	*Earl, Glenn (S)	6-1	213	5	Notre Dame	0/0	D4 04	D4 HOUS 04	Hopes to regain his starting job at safety after spending last season on IR.
38	Faggins, Demarcus (CB)	5-10	178	7	Kansas State	16/8	FA 03	D6 HOUS 02	Struggled and lost starting job last year; will compete at nickel back.
28	*Ferguson, Nick (S)	5-11	201	9	Georgia Tech	12/7	UFA,DEN 08	CFA CHI 99	Former Denver player entering his 13th season. Adds depth at safety.
21	Fletcher, Jamar (CB)	5-10	172	8	Wisconsin	10/2	UFA,DET 07	D1 MIA 01	Solid corner, who will likely return as the team's nickel back this season.
31	*Harrison, Brandon (S)	6-2	227	2	Stanford	0/0	D5 07	D5 HOUS 07	Missed all of his rookie season with an injury, hopes to make team this year.
29	Johnson, Derrick (CB)	5-10	188	3	Washington	0/0	FA 08	D6 SF 05	Young corner with game experience, but wasn't on a roster last year.
28	Molden, Antwaun (CB)	6-1	198	R	Eastern Kentucky	0/0	D3 08	D3 HOUS 08	Third-round draft pick will likely need time to develop into impact corner.
35	**Reeves, Jacques (CB)**	**5-11**	**192**	**5**	**Purdue**	**16/13**	**UFA,DALL 08**	**D7 DALL 04**	**With so much experience, he is likely to start until Robinson returns.**
23	*Robinson, Dunta (CB)	5-10	176	5	South Carolina	9/9	D1 04	D1 HOUS 04	Knee/hamstring injuries will sideline team's best DB until midseason.
SPECIALISTS									
3	Brown, Kris (K)	5-11	209	10	Nebraska	16/0	RFA,PITT 02	D7 PITT 99	One of the few original Texans remaining; has played in every Texans game.
48	Pittman, Bryan (LS)	6-3	264	6	Washington	16/0	FA 03	CFA CLV 03	He is one of the best long snappers in the league; very consistent.
1	Turk, Matt (P)	6-5	245	13	Wisconsin-Whitewater	16/0	FA 07	CFA GB 93	Coming off a very solid season with an average of 37.9 net yards per punt.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent; VA=Veteran Allocation.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Ryan Grice-Mullen (Hawaii), Darnell Jenkins (Miami); TE Cole Bennett (Auburn); G Dan Stevenson (1, Notre Dame); DE Jesse Nading (Colorado State); DT Gabe Long (Utah); LBs Kevis Coley (1, Southern Mississippi), Ben Moffitt (USF), Marcus Richardson (Troy); CB Derrick Roberson (1, Rutgers); S Brandon Mitchell (1, Ohio State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. The Texans drafted rookie left tackle Duane Brown to eventually take over the job Ephraim Salaam has held for most of the past two seasons. Salaam will not give it up without a fight, even though Brown should be ready to start by at least midway through the season.
2. If Andre Johnson hadn't missed seven games last season, he could have topped 1,500 receiving yards and had 14 touchdowns. Look for him to post his third career 1,000-yard season this year.
3. Mario Williams went from 4.5 sacks as a rookie to 14 sacks in his second season. He won't likely do the hula dance on the field again, but he should lead the league in sacks and earn his first invitation to the Pro Bowl this season.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Matt Schaub

When Matt Schaub was on the field last year, he was a solid starting quarterback. However, his inability to stay healthy has raised definite concerns around the team. He was sacked only 16 times — an incredibly low number for a Texans quarterback. But he took a lot of hits after he got rid of the ball. He left four games early with injuries and missed five starts. He then had off-season shoulder surgery.

The heat wouldn't likely be so high on Schaub in his second season if the Texans didn't have such a good backup behind him. Sage Rosenfels thrives in the Texans' offense. In the most extensive playing time of his career, he excelled last year. He won four of his five starts, and easily looked as comfortable as Schaub in the pocket. Rosenfels may be slightly less mobile, but he gets rid of the ball a little faster and takes fewer hits than Schaub. He also played considerably less than Schaub, but ended up throwing 15 touchdowns — six more than Schaub. The Texans have clearly stated that Schaub is their starting quarterback, but if he struggles this season, it will be Rosenfels' name they hear being chanted from the stands.

starting job over newcomers Kevin Bentley, Chaun Thompson and rookie Xavier Adibi.

Bentley has the versatility to play all three positions at linebacker and Thompson provides a pass-rush threat. Adibi will add speed and much-needed depth at one of the team's thinnest positions.

RATING: 7

SECONDARY

The secondary ended up overachieving last season after injuries knocked out some of the unit's best players. Without too many upgrades in the off-season, the Texans will need their young players to step up again. Fred Bennett and Jacques Reeves will start at cornerback, hoping to fill the void left by Dunta Robinson (hamstring/knee) who will miss at least half the season.

DeMarcus Faggins and Jamar Fletcher will compete at nickel back. Faggins struggled in his all-around game last season and must show improvement to make the team. Rookie Antwaun Molden will likely wind up as the fourth cornerback.

At safety, C.C. Brown and Will Demps return to the starting roles. Glenn Earl is looking to come back from a Lis Franc fracture that knocked him out of all of last season. He will push to regain a starting job. Brandon Mitchell, Brandon Harrison and Dominique Barber all lack any experience, but will try to win a roster spot with their youth, speed and athleticism.

RATING: 6

SPECIAL TEAMS

Coordinator Joe Marciano does an outstanding job with this unit each year. His group returns basically intact with kicker Kris Brown, punter Matt Turk and long snapper Bryan Pittman. Brown connected on 25 of 29 field-goal attempts. Pittman botched the first snap of his five-year career. Turk landed almost half of his punts inside the 20-yard-line.

By not tendering an offer to Jerome Mathis, it was critical when the team re-signed Andre Davis, who returned three kickoffs for touchdowns last season. Punt returner Jacoby Jones improved as the season went on last year, but it took him some time to adjust to the pro level. The Texans are working to advance his game even more this season, and he will likely produce some big plays with his track speed.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

Coach Gary Kubiak has steadily brought in good players and coaches during his two seasons with the franchise. Most important, he has infused an attitude in the locker room that the losing doesn't have to continue. The players have bought into it, and each year they have steadily gotten better. If that can continue, it will mean the Texans capture their first-ever winning record in '08.

RATING: Plus 1

2007 RESULTS

Record: 8-8

Sep. 9	KANSAS CITY	20- 3
Sep. 16	at Carolina	34-21
Sep. 23	INDIANAPOLIS	24-30
Sep. 30	at Atlanta	16-26
Oct. 7	MIAMI	22-19
Oct. 14	at Jacksonville	17-37
Oct. 21	TENNESSEE	36-38
Oct. 28	at San Diego	10-35
Nov. 4	at Oakland	24-17
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	NEW ORLEANS	23-10
Nov. 25	at Cleveland	17-27
Dec. 2	at Tennessee	20-28
Dec. 9	TAMPA BAY	28-14
Dec. 13	DENVER (Thu.)	31-13
Dec. 23	at Indianapolis	15-38
Dec. 30	JACKSONVILLE	42-28

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	DENVER (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at New Orleans (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 22	at Dallas (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 28	TAMPA BAY (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sep. 14	BALTIMORE	3:15
Sep. 21	at Tennessee	12:00
Sep. 28	at Jacksonville	1:00
Oct. 5	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00
Oct. 12	MIAMI	12:00
Oct. 19	DETROIT	3:05
Oct. 26	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 2	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov. 9	CINCINNATI	12:00
Nov. 16	at Indianapolis	1:00
Nov. 23	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 1	JACKSONVILLE (Mon.)	7:30
Dec. 7	at Green Bay	12:00
Dec. 14	TENNESSEE	12:00
Dec. 21	at Oakland	1:05
Dec. 28	CHICAGO	12:00

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

2007 RECORD: 13-4 | STADIUM: RCA Dome, 55,531, FieldTurf | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

AFC SOUTH | www.colts.com

AT A GLANCE

P.O. Box 535000
Indianapolis, IN 46253
(317) 297-2658

TRAINING CAMP:
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; Terre Haute, IN

COACH:
Tony Dungy, 7th year with Colts (80-28), 13th year as NFL head coach (136-74)

PRESIDENT:
Bill Polian

VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Chris Polian

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION:
Steve Champlin

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Tom Telesco

DIRECTOR PRO PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Clyde Powers

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Tom Moore	Offensive coordinator	32	11
Jim Caldwell	*Quarterbacks	8	7
Howard Mudd	Offensive line	35	11
Gene Huey	Running backs	17	17
Clyde Christensen	Receivers	13	7
Ricky Thomas	Tight ends	12	7
Pete Metzelaars	Off. quality control	5	5
Ron Meeks	Defensive coordinator	18	7
John Teerlinck	Defensive line	20	8
Mike Murphy	Linebackers	23	11
Alan Williams	Secondary	8	7
Rod Perry	Secondary	20	2
Carlos Woods	Def. quality control	2	2
Russ Purnell	Special teams	23	7
Jon Torine	Strength & Cond.	14	11
Richard Howell	Strength & Cond.	9	9

*Associate head coach

Consistency a Staple of Colts Organization

Winning consistently has not been a problem for the Indianapolis Colts.

Since Bill Polian took over as the team president in 1998 — the same year that Indianapolis drafted quarterback Peyton Manning — the franchise has posted an impressive 105-55 record with six divisional titles (including five straight AFC South crowns) and one Super Bowl title.

With Tony Dungy on the sidelines since 2002 as the team's head coach, the Colts are 73-23 with five consecutive seasons of 12 or more wins. Things aren't expected to change too much this year either.

"I'm excited to see how our chemistry builds with our group, the group that we have this year. I'm always excited to see how our second-year players come along and if they're building on their first year," Dungy said.

"I remember talking to (running back) Joseph (Addai) last year and he was just so much more relaxed, (saying), 'I feel like I know what's going on.' It should show in your play and it should show in your practice. You're looking to see that. Then, to see if everybody is on top of the details, if they're taking care of the little things, because that's what determines if you're going to be an OK team or a very good team."

COACHING

Indianapolis' veteran coaching staff returns intact from a year ago, but there is one significant change. To no one's surprise, assistant head coach Jim Caldwell has been designated as Dungy's heir apparent whenever he decides to retire from his current position.

Caldwell and Dungy are long time friends, so there is expected to be a seamless transition when the time does come for the veteran head coach to step away from the game.

But make no mistake about it: Dungy remains firmly in control of this team. Tom Moore and Ron Meeks are given plenty of latitude in their respective roles as offensive and defensive coordinators.

And the rest of the coaching staff is top-rate with Howard Mudd (offensive line), Gene Huey (running backs), Clyde Christensen (receivers), Mike Murphy (linebackers), John Teerlinck (defensive line), Ricky Thomas (tight ends), Alan Williams (defensive backs), Russ Purnell (special teams), Pete Metzelaars (offensive quality control coach), Carlos Woods (defensive quality control coach) and Rod Perry (special defensive assistant).

RATING: 10

QUARTERBACKS

With the retirement last spring of Green Bay's Brett Favre, Manning has now become the league's iron man at the quarterback position. He has started 160 straight regular-season games heading into the 2008 season.

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
RB Dominic Rhodes

If he can play as well as he did in the Colts' Super Bowl season, before signing with Oakland, Rhodes will be just what the Colts are looking for: a dependable backup and complement to starter Joseph Addai.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
None

KEY LOSS:
LB Rob Morris (2/2)*
He didn't become a fan favorite until the latter stages of his Indianapolis career, but Morris proved to be the ultimate team player. A stand-up guy who was a stalwart in the locker room.

OTHER LOSSES:
LB Rocky Boiman (16/7), TE Bryan Fletcher (15/3), OG Dylan Gandy (10/1), DT Dan Klecko (8/0), DT Anthony McFarland (0/0), WR Aaron Moorehead (8/2), OG Jake Scott (16/16), TE Mike Seidman (0/0), WR Craphonso Thorpe (5/0), TE Ben Utecht (14/13)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
20; 9 offense, 11 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

The former two-time NFL Most Valuable Player remains as one of the league's premier signal-callers. And his on-field performance isn't expected to take a dip anytime soon.

Jim Sorgi is back as Manning's primary backup. Although he signed a three-year contract extension during the off-season, many fans weren't happy with his performance in the Colts' regular-season finale with Tennessee last year. Team officials, though, remain committed to Sorgi as the team's No. 2 quarterback.

RATING: 9.5

RUNNING BACKS

Joseph Addai had a very good sophomore season for the Colts, rushing for 1,072 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also proved to be a valuable receiver out of the backfield as he hauled in 41 passes for an additional 364 yards and three touchdowns.

Addai was dinged up a bit during the year, but fought through the injuries to be the team's go-to running back. Former Canadian Football League standout Kenton Keith became the second back in the team's rotation system, picking up 533 yards on the ground and scoring three touchdowns.

Keith will once again be a candidate for that No. 2 role, but he will battle Dominic Rhodes as well as youngsters Cliff Dawson, Justise Hairston and Mike Hart for playing time. Hart, will be given every opportunity to show what he can do.

Luke Lawton is back as the Colts' lone option at fullback.

RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

Marvin Harrison is expected to be fully recovered from a knee injury that sidelined him for most of last season and limited him to a career-low 20 catches.

With a healthy Harrison in the lineup, Reggie Wayne should continue to blossom into one of the league's best young receiving threats. Wayne had a team-leading 104 receptions for 1,510 yards and 10 touchdowns last year.

Second-year receiver Anthony Gonzalez came on strong late in his rookie season and added 37 receptions for 576 yards and three scores.

Other potential receiving threats for the Colts include Devin Aromashodu, former Tennessee Titans draft pick Courtney Roby and Roy Hall. Hall missed most of his rookie year with Indianapolis in 2008 with a shoulder injury.

Dallas Clark is back at tight end after a breakout year in 2007. Clark is a tough matchup for opposing defenses as he can line up at a variety of spots on the field, including H-Back, slot receiver and as an outside receiver.

The depth behind Clark includes a pair of rookies, Jacob Tamme and Tom Santi.

RATING: 8

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Indianapolis lost starting offensive right guard Jake Scott to the Titans in the off-season, but the rest of the Colts' offensive line remains intact.

Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday leads the way, while veterans Ryan Lilja and Ryan Diem are back as starters at left offensive guard and right offensive tackle, respectively. Second-year left offensive tackle Tony Ugoh got his feet wet as a rookie starter last year and should be even better this season.

Backup Charlie Johnson is the first potential replacement for Scott, with Johnson moving inside from offensive tackle. Rookies Mike Pollak, Steve Justice and Jamey Richard will also be given a shot at the job.

Michael Toudouze, Corey Hilliard and Daniel Federkeil remain as the primary backups at tackle.

RATING: 7.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

If defensive ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis can return healthy this year, the Colts' defensive line could emerge into one of the league's best in 2008.

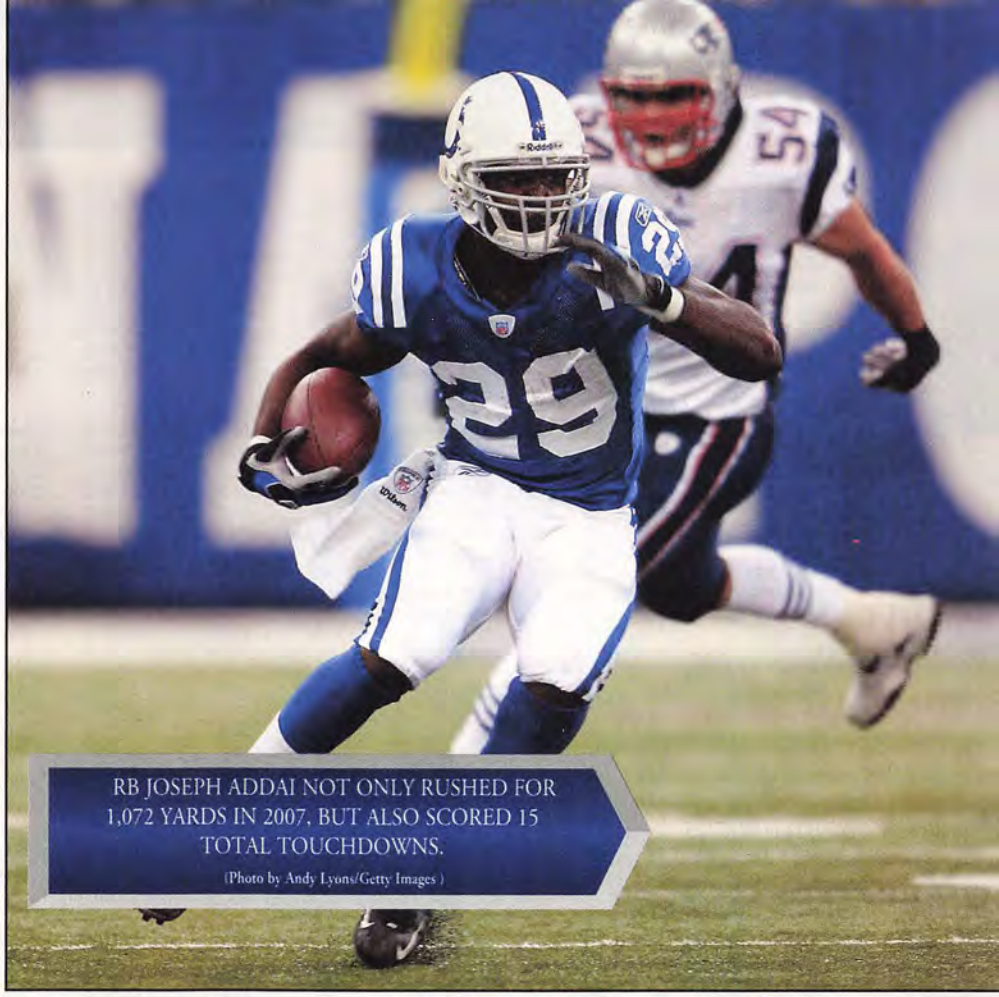
Freeney sat out the second half of last season with a foot injury, while Mathis struggled with a knee injury late in the year. Without both of them in the lineup, Indianapolis' outside pass rush was slowed considerably.

Backups Josh Thomas and Jeff Charleston held their own when given the opportunity for extended playing time.

Indianapolis drafted undersized defensive end Marcus Howard last spring to help add additional athleticism off the bench. Howard has been compared favorably with Mathis as an outside speed rusher.

As for the interior defensive line, the Colts got good production a year ago from former undrafted free agent Ed Johnson and veteran Raheem Brock. Darrell Reid, along with 2007 draft picks Keyunta Dawson and Quinn Pitcock, proved to be very capable backups.

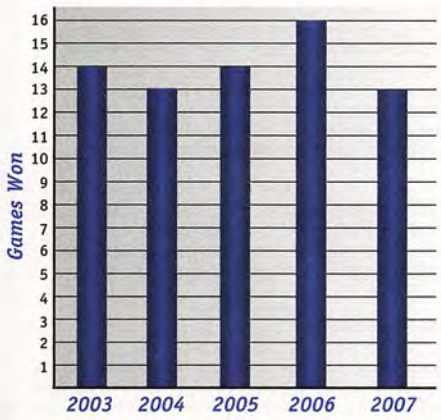
RATING: 7.5



RB JOSEPH ADDAI NOT ONLY RUSHED FOR 1,072 YARDS IN 2007, BUT ALSO SCORED 15 TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS.

(Photo by Andy Lyons/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007*

Colts Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
80	Aromashodu, Devin	6-2	200	2	Auburn	6/1	FA 07	D7 MIA 06	Talented young receiver who got playing time last year due to injuries.
44	**Clark, Dallas (TE)**	**6-3**	**252**	**6**	**Iowa**	**15/15**	**D1 03**	**D1 IND 03**	**Earned his due as one of NFL's best tight ends after a huge season in '08.**
85	Garcon, Pierre	6-0	210	R	Mount Union	0/0	D6 08	D6 IND 08	Physically gifted small-school player expected to be a project at receiver.
11	**Gonzalez, Anthony**	**6-0**	**193**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**13/9**	**D1 07**	**D1 IND 07**	**Injuries kept former No. 1 draft pick from reaching potential as a rookie.**
83	*Hall, Roy	6-3	240	2	Ohio State	3/0	D5 07	D5 IND 07	Could have big year after missing most of last season with shoulder injury.
88	**Harrison, Marvin**	**6-0**	**185**	**13**	**Syracuse**	**5/5**	**D1 96**	**D1 IND 96**	**Motivated to get back to form that earned him eight Pro Bowl appearances.**
10	Roby, Courtney	6-0	189	3	Indiana	0/0	FA 08	D3 TENN 05	Former Tennessee Titans draft pick who has returned to hometown to play.
86	Santi, Tom (TE)	6-3	250	R	Virginia	0/0	D6 08	D6 IND 08	Big, athletic rookie who can be used as a run blocker and receiving threat.
84	Tamme, Jacob (TE)	6-3	236	R	Kentucky	0/0	D4 08	D4 IND 08	Excelled after making the move inside from receiver to tight end in college.
87	**Wayne, Reggie**	**6-0**	**198**	**8**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 IND 01**	**Has developed into one of the league's premier all-around receiving threats.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
71	**Diem, Ryan (T)**	**6-6**	**320**	**8**	**Northern Illinois**	**10/10**	**D4 01**	**D4 IND 01**	**Veteran offensive lineman who was slowed by a knee injury late last season.**
76	*Federkeil, Dan (T)	6-6	290	2	Calgary	8/0	FA 06	CFA IND 06	Has made successful transition from college defensive end to offensive line.
72	Hilliard, Corey (T/G)	6-6	305	2	Oklahoma State	3/0	FA 07	D6 NE 07	Talented young offensive tackle who began his NFL career with New England.
74	**Johnson, Charlie (T)**	**6-4**	**305**	**3**	**Oklahoma State**	**14/10**	**D6 06**	**D6 IND 06**	**Will get chance to start at guard after working both offensive tackle spots.**
53	Justice, Steve (C)	6-3	293	R	Wake Forest	0/0	D6 08	D6 IND 08	Rookie who will get a long look at guard and center during training camp.
65	**Lilja, Ryan (G)**	**6-2**	**290**	**5**	**Kansas State**	**16/16**	**W,KC 04**	**CFA KC 04**	**Undersized offensive lineman who has become a key starter for Indianapolis.**
78	Pollak, Mike (G)	6-3	301	R	Arizona State	0/0	D2 08	D2 IND 08	Top draft pick in 2008 who will have an early opportunity to start at guard.
61	Richard, Jamey (G)	6-5	295	R	Buffalo	0/0	D6 08	D6 IND 08	One of three rookie centers who will get work at guard during the preseason.
63	**Saturday, Jeff (C)**	**6-2**	**295**	**10**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**FA 99**	**CFA BLT 98**	**Three-time Pro Bowl selection is the anchor of underrated offensive line.**
75	Toudouze, Michael (T)	6-6	303	2	Texas Christian	4/0	FA 07	D5 IND 06	Filled in nicely for Ryan Diem after spending rookie year on practice squad.
67	**Ugoh, Tony (T)**	**6-5**	**301**	**2**	**Arkansas**	**11/11**	**D2 07**	**D2 IND 07**	**Developed very well as a first-year starter for Colts last season.**
RUNNING BACKS									
29	**Addai, Joseph**	**5-11**	**214**	**3**	**Louisiana State**	**15/15**	**D1 06**	**D1 IND 06**	**Dependable in the clutch; continues to work on his pass catching skills.**
30	Dawson, Clifton	5-10	212	2	Harvard	13/0	FA 07	CFA IND 07	Undrafted free agent in 2007 who impressed as a rookie in training camp.
32	Hart, Mike	5-9	206	R	Michigan	0/0	D6 08	D6 IND 08	Has a lot to prove to other NFL teams who considered him to be too slow.
36	Keith, Kenton	5-11	198	2	New Mexico State	16/1	FA 07	FA IND 07	Played relatively well last season, but needs to develop more consistency.
45	Lawton, Luke (FB)	6-0	245	2	McNeese State	11/0	FA 07	CFA BUFF 04	Became a fan favorite with his play on special teams and as a lead blocker.
	Rhodes, Dominic	5-9	205	8	Midwestern State	10/2	FA 08	CFA IND 01	Should contribute as third-down back and backup to Addai after year away.
QUARTERBACKS									
18	**Manning, Peyton**	**6-5**	**230**	**11**	**Tennessee**	**16/16**	**D1 98**	**D1 IND 98**	**One of the best quarterbacks in the game continues to find ways to improve.**
12	Sorgi, Jim	6-5	196	5	Wisconsin	4/0	D6 04	D6 IND 04	Has seen limited playing time as Manning's primary backup in recent seasons.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
79	**Brock, Raheem (T)**	**6-4**	**274**	**7**	**Temple**	**11/11**	**FA 02**	**D7 PHA 02**	**Former defensive end who has made a successful transition inside to tackle.**
90	Charleston, Jeff (E)	6-4	265	2	Idaho State	13/3	FA 07	CFA HOUS 06	Bounced around the league before finding a home with the Colts defense.
96	Dawson, Keyunta (E)	6-3	254	2	Texas Tech	16/4	D7 07	D7 IND 07	Athletic defensive end in college who was moved to tackle as a rookie.
93	***Freeney, Dwight (E)**	**6-1**	**268**	**7**	**Syracuse**	**9/9**	**D1 02**	**D1 IND 02**	**It's hoped that he retained his speed and burst after rehabbing foot injury.**
92	Howard, Marcus (E)	6-0	237	R	Georgia	0/0	D5 08	D5 IND 08	Yet another speedy, athletic undersized defensive end to use off the edge.
99	**Johnson, Ed (T)**	**6-2**	**296**	**2**	**Penn State**	**16/16**	**CFA 07**	**CFA IND 07**	**Undrafted player who earned a starting job during training camp as a rookie.**
98	**Mathis, Robert (E)**	**6-2**	**245**	**6**	**Alabama A&M**	**13/12**	**D5 03**	**D5 IND 03**	**Has held up well as an outside speed rusher and is a quality run stopper.**
97	Pitcock, Quinn (T)	6-2	299	2	Ohio State	9/1	D3 07	D3 IND 07	Slowed by injuries in his rookie year but played well late in the season.
95	Reid, Darrell (E)	6-2	288	4	Minnesota	16/1	CFA 05	CFA IND 05	Part of the defensive line rotation while also a special teams leader.
91	Thomas, Josh (E)	6-5	271	5	Syracuse	15/7	CFA 04	CFA IND 04	Started seven games in 2007 as he filled in for an injured Dwight Freeney.
LINEBACKERS									
58	**Brackett, Gary (M)**	**5-11**	**235**	**6**	**Rutgers**	**16/16**	**CFA 03**	**CFA IND 03**	**Doesn't get the attention of Sanders or Freeney, but is a defensive leader.**
52	Guzman, Ramon (O)	6-2	232	2	Buffalo	16/0	CFA 07	CFA IND 07	Athletic second-year linebacker who earned a role on special teams unit.
56	**Hagler, Tyjuan (O)**	**6-0**	**236**	**4**	**Cincinnati**	**12/7**	**D5 05**	**D5 IND 05**	**Hard-hitting young linebacker who began to come into his own last year.**
54	**Keiaho, Freddy (O)**	**5-11**	**226**	**3**	**San Diego State**	**11/11**	**D3 06**	**D3 IND 06**	**Early season injuries didn't keep second-year player from displaying skills.**
55	Session, Clint (O)	6-0	235	2	Pittsburgh	13/1	D4 07	D4 IND 07	Had a pair of acrobatic interceptions during his lone start at San Diego.
50	Wheeler, Phillip	6-2	240	R	Georgia Tech	0/0	D3 08	D3 IND 08	Will get work early in practice as both a middle and weak-side linebacker.
51	*Worsley, Victor	6-1	234	2	North Carolina	3/0	FA 07	CFA IND 07	Spent the 2007 season on injured reserve after getting hurt in preseason.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
41	**Bethea, Antoine (S)**	**5-11**	**203**	**3**	**Howard**	**13/13**	**D6 06**	**D6 IND 06**	**A starter since his rookie season, earned his first-ever trip to Pro Bowl.**
33	Bullitt, Melvin (S)	6-1	201	2	Texas A&M	15/0	CFA 07	CFA IND 07	Undrafted, but quickly found a spot on team as a rookie on special teams.
25	Coe, Michael (CB)	6-0	190	2	Alabama State	6/0	D5 07	D5 IND 07	Injuries kept talented corner off the field until latter stages of season.
42	Condren, Brannon (S)	6-1	205	2	Troy	8/0	D4 07	D4 IND 07	Physical player who missed playing time early due to injuries as a rookie.
43	Giordano, Matt (S)	5-11	200	4	California	12/4	D4 05	D4 IND 05	Primary backup to both Bob Sanders and Antoine Bethea last two seasons.
26	**Hayden, Kelvin (CB)**	**6-0**	**195**	**4**	**Illinois**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 IND 05**	**Earned starter's role in 2007 after recording big interception in Super Bowl.**
20	*Hughes, Dante (CB)	5-10	190	2	California	10/0	D3 07	D3 IND 07	Intriguing young defensive back prospect who missed most of rookie season.
28	**Jackson, Marlin (CB)**	**6-0**	**196**	**4**	**Michigan**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 IND 05**	**Can play equally well both as a starting cornerback and as a slot defender.**
23	Jennings, Tim (CB)	5-8	185	3	Georgia	11/4	D2 06	D2 IND 06	Got more work last season after battling back from ankle injury as a rookie.
31	Ratliff, Keiwan (CB)	5-11	188	5	Florida	1/0	W,TB 07	D2 CIN 04	Late-season pickup last year who should see even more playing time in 2008.
34	Rushing, T.J. (CB/KR)	5-9	186	3	Stanford	14/0	FA 06	D7 IND 06	Was drafted primarily as a kick returner, but has done a nice job on defense.
21	**Sanders, Bob (S)**	**5-8**	**206**	**5**	**Iowa**	**15/15**	**D2 04**	**D2 IND 04**	**Played a full season and named league's "Defensive Player of the Year".**
37	*Smith, Antonio	5-9	192	2	Ohio State	0/0	CFA 07	CFA IND 07	Undrafted defensive back who sat out rookie season after injuring shoulder.
SPECIALISTS									
17	Smith, Hunter (P)	6-2	209	10	Notre Dame	16/0	D7 99	D7 IND 99	Underrated punter who has worked to improve skills as a directional kicker.
48	Snow, Justin (LS/TE)	6-3	240	9	Baylor	16/0	CFA 00	CFA IND 00	Veteran snapper who has developed improved consistency during his career.
7	Stanley, Chad (P)	6-3	209	8	Stephen F. Austin	0/0	FA 08	CFA SF 99	Well-traveled punter was added to the Colts roster during the offseason.
4	Vinatieri, Adam (K)	6-0	202	13	South Dakota State	16/0	UFA,NE 06	CFA NE 96	Best clutch kicker in league despite minor injuries the last two seasons.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Rudy Burgess (Arizona State), Charles Dillon (Washington State), Samuel Giguere (Sherbrooke, Canada), Onrea Jones (1, Hampton); TEs Zac Herold (1, Nebraska-Omaha), Gijon Robinson (1, Missouri Western); OT Darren Marquez (Southern Illinois); OGs Mike Elgin (1, Iowa), Tala Esera (1, Hawaii); C Pat Ross (1, Boston College); QBs Josh Betts (1, Miami, Ohio), Adam Tafralis (San Jose State); RBs Justise Hairston (1, Central Connecticut), Chad Simpson (Morgan State); DEs Ben Ishola (1, Indiana), Curtis Johnson (Clark), J.J. Milan (1, Nevada); DTs Joe Bradley (1, Louisiana-Lafayette), Dan Davis (Connecticut), Colin Ferrell (Kent State), Eric Foster (Rutgers); LBs Jordan Senn (Portland State), Kyle Shotwell (1, Cal Poly-SLO); S Jamie Silva (Boston College); DB Brandon Foster; PK Shane Andrus (1/W,NYG; Murray State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A healthy Harrison and Freeney. Wide receiver Marvin Harrison and defensive end Dwight Freeney missed extensive playing time in 2007 due to knee and foot injuries, respectively. According to team officials, Harrison's and Freeney both should be ready to go for the season opener.
2. The emergence of Freddy and Tyjuan. Weak-side linebacker Freddy Keiaho and strong-side linebacker Tyjuan Hagler, both entering their third year in the league, played well in their first stints as starters during the 2007 season. Look for that steady improvement to continue if they can both stay healthy this year.
3. More Gonzalez. Anthony Gonzalez was Indianapolis' top draft pick in 2007. Injuries early in the season slowed his initial progress, but he began to show steady improvement as the year went on. Gonzalez could have a breakout season in 2008 as the Colts' regular slot receiver.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Dallas Clark

Statistically speaking, just how does Dallas Clark go about improving on everything that he accomplished in 2007?

It won't be easy, that's for sure.

The Indianapolis Colts' top draft pick in 2003, Clark had already earned a reputation as one of the NFL's best tight ends. But with veteran wide receiver Marvin Harrison sidelined by a knee injury for most of the season, Colts quarterback Peyton Manning found himself going to the sure-handed Iowa graduate more often.

Although he failed to earn his first-ever trip to the Pro Bowl, Clark responded with career highs for catches in a season (58), yards receiving (616) and touchdown catches (11).

In fact, the number of touchdowns that he accumulated almost equaled the combined career touchdowns (14) that he had prior to last year. Clark's totals for receptions and touchdown catches also set franchise records.

If that wasn't already impressive enough, team officials rewarded Clark with a contract last spring that made him the league's highest paid tight end. The agreement exceeded that of Kansas City's Tony Gonzalez, previously the highest-paid tight end at $6.2 million annually. Continuing to justify that money is what puts him on the hot seat.

LINEBACKERS

Gary Brackett (middle), Freddy Keiaho (weak side) and Tyjuan Hagler (strong side) should be the starters heading into the 2008 season.

Brackett continues to be a steadying influence on the entire defense, but especially so as he works with a pair of young but rapidly improving starters in Keiaho and Hagler.

With veterans Rob Morris and Rocky Boiman gone, the depth will be considerably younger. Cliff Session, Ramon Guzman, Victor Worsley — all with just one year of NFL experience — and rookie draft pick Philip Wheeler will be the backups.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

Perhaps the deepest area of the Indianapolis defense, talent-wise, is the team's defensive backfield.

Cornerbacks Marlin Jackson and Kelvin Hayden, along with safeties Bob Sanders and Antoine Bethea, rival the best foursome in the league. That's especially true since Sanders was named as the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year last season.

Coming off the bench to provide additional support are safety Matt Giordano and cornerbacks Tim Jennings, T.J. Rushing and Keiwan Ratliff.

A pair of rookies from last year, Dante Hughes and Michael Coe, could be major factors this year. The same holds true for second-year safeties Melvin Bullitt and Brandon Condren and cornerback Antonio Smith. Smith sat out the 2007 season with a shoulder injury.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Adam Vinatieri and punter Hunter Smith are both back, giving the Colts two of the best at their respective positions in the league.

Vinatieri led Indianapolis in scoring with 118 points last year, hitting on 23-of-29 field-goal attempts. Smith, meanwhile, averaged 34.2 yards net and 41.9 yards overall while recording five touchbacks and landing 18 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

T.J. Rushing did a nice job as the team's kickoff and punt return specialist a year ago. Rushing averaged 23 yards per kickoff return and 13.1 yards on punts. He also returned one punt for a touchdown. Justin Snow remains as the Colts' long snapper.

RATING: 7.5

INTANGIBLES

The Colts were hit hard by injuries in some key positions a year ago, especially on defense. Those injuries allowed several of the team's younger players to gain some much-needed experience.

But how much that experience can carry over and help Indianapolis this year remains to be seen.

RATING: Plus 2

—Tom James

2007 RESULTS

Record: 13-4

Sep. 6	NEW ORLEANS (Thu.)	41-10
Sep. 16	at Tennessee	22-20
Sep. 23	at Houston	30-24
Sep. 30	DENVER	38-20
Oct. 7	TAMPA BAY	33-14
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	at Jacksonville (Mon.)	29- 7
Oct. 28	at Carolina	31- 7
Nov. 4	NEW ENGLAND	20-24
Nov. 11	at San Diego	21-23
Nov. 18	KANSAS CITY	13-10
Nov. 22	at Atlanta (Thu.)	31-13
Dec. 2	JACKSONVILLE	28-25
Dec. 9	at Baltimore	44-20
Dec. 16	at Oakland	21-14
Dec. 23	HOUSTON	38-15
Dec. 30	TENNESSEE	10-16
Jan. 13	SAN DIEGO	24-28

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 3	Washington (Canton)	8:00
Aug. 9	at Carolina (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 16	at Atlanta (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 24	BUFFALO	8:00
Aug. 28	CINCINNATI (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	CHICAGO	8:15
Sep. 14	at Minnesota	12:00
Sep. 21	JACKSONVILLE	4:15
Sep. 28	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 5	at Houston	12:00
Oct. 12	BALTIMORE	1:00
Oct. 19	at Green Bay	3:15
Oct. 27	at Tennessee (Mon.)	7:30
Nov. 2	NEW ENGLAND	8:15
Nov. 9	at Pittsburgh	4:15
Nov. 16	HOUSTON	1:00
Nov. 23	at San Diego	5:15
Nov. 30	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec. 7	CINCINNATI	1:00
Dec. 14	DETROIT	1:00
Dec. 18	at Jacksonville (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 28	TENNESSEE	1:00

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

2007 RECORD: 12-6 | STADIUM: Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, 67,164, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 2nd

AFC SOUTH

www.jaguars.com

AT A GLANCE

One Stadium Place
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 633-6000

TRAINING CAMP:
Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, Jacksonville, FL

COACH:
Jack Del Rio, 6th year with Jaguars and as NFL head coach (46-37)

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Paul Vance

VICE PRESIDENT/PLAYER PERSONNEL:
James Harris

EXEXCUTIVE DIRECTOR COLLEGE/ PRO PERSONNEL:
Gene Smith

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Louis Clark

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Larry Wright

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Mike Tice	Assistant head coach/TE	13	3
Dirk Koetter	Offensive coordinator	2	2
Mike Shula	Quarterbacks	12	2
Todd Monken	Receivers	2	2
Robert Prince	Assistant receivers	5	5
Andy Heck	Offensive line	5	5
Kennedy Pola	Running backs	5	4
Gregg Williams	*Defensive coordinator	18	1
Ted Monachino	Defensive line	3	3
Mark Duffner	Linebackers	12	3
Donnie Henderson	Secondary	9	1
Thom Kaumeyer	Secondary	1	1
Tom Williams	Defensive assistant	2	2
Joe DeCamillas	Special teams	22	2
Nick Kaczor	Special teams asst.	1	1
Mike Asanovich	Strength & Cond.	14	6
Les Ebert	Strength & Cond.	8	5

*Assistant head coach/Defense

Looking for a Rush to Get Past Colts and Patriots

Tom Brady sent the Jaguars a message last January.

He showed they're not going to beat him without a pass rush. The Jaguars sacked him only once as he methodically picked their defense apart with short passes, completing 26 of 28 passes in a 30-21 victory as he knocked them out of the playoffs for the second time in three years.

By contrast, the Giants sacked Brady five times while upsetting the Patriots in the Super Bowl, 17-14.

That's why the Jaguars put a lot of emphasis on upgrading their pass rush in the offseason, trading two third-round picks, a fourth and a fifth and a seventh in 2009 to trade up in the first two rounds to draft SEC pass rushers Derrick Harvey of Florida and Quentin Groves of Auburn.

The Jaguars have put together a team that has made the playoffs twice in the last three years, but they're 1-8 in that span against Peyton Manning and Brady and 31-11 against the rest of the league.

If Harvey and Groves can upgrade their pass rush and help them beat Manning and Brady, they have a chance to go to the Super Bowl for the first time in the team's history.

The Jaguars have the ingredients of a playoff team. They can run the ball, stop the run and David Garrard has emerged as their franchise quarterback.

If they can add a pass rush to the mix, they think they can become a Super team.

COACHING

Jack Del Rio had been an assistant coach for just six years when he was hired as the team's head coach in 2003 and his inexperience showed. He discarded assistant coaches the way some men change ties, which explains why strength coach Mark Asanovich is the only member of his original staff still left. But his third offensive coordinator (Dirk Koetter) and his third special teams coach (Joe DeCamillis) seem to be a good fit and he hired Gregg Williams as his defensive coordinator to replace Mike Smith, who got the head coaching job in Atlanta. Del Rio has put together a playoff team, but now he has to prove he can take a team to the Super Bowl. Otherwise, he'll become another Marty Schottenheimer, who always fell short of the big game.

RATING: 8

QUARTERBACKS

David Garrard spent four years playing in the shadow of Byron Leftwich, the seventh pick in the 2003 draft, and was benched three different times by Del Rio. But when Garrard outplayed Leftwich in training camp, Del Rio went to owner Wayne Weaver to get permission to cut Leftwich after James Harris, the vice president of player personnel, objected. The move saved Del Rio's job as Garrard matured into a top quarterback and earned a $60 million contract extension. He had a 102.2 passer rating and threw 18 touchdown passes and just three interceptions. Cleo Lemon replaced Quinn

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Jerry Porter

David Garrard had a remarkable season last year considering the fact that his leading receiver, Ernest Wilford, had just 45 catches. They're counting on Jerry Porter to become his go-to receiver.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
QB Todd Bouman, CB Drayton Florence, DT Jimmy Kennedy, QB Cleo Lemon, S Pierson Prioleau, WR Troy Williamson

KEY LOSS:
DT Marcus Stroud (9/9)*
The Jaguars didn't lose a single player who had a major impact last year, but Marcus Stroud, who was traded to Buffalo, will be missed if he overcomes his injury and becomes an impact player once again.

OTHER LOSSES:
CB Terry Cousin (16/2), CB Aaron Glenn (5/4), QB Quinn Gray (8/4), DT Grady Jackson (9/0), S Sammy Knight (16/15), DE Bobby McCray (14/9), OT Stockar McDougle (0/0), OG Chris Naeole (8/8), DE Shantee Orr (3/0), S Lamont Thompson (3/0), RB LaBrandon Toefield (2/1), WR Ernest Wilford (16/14)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 9 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

Gray as the team's backup.

RATING: 8

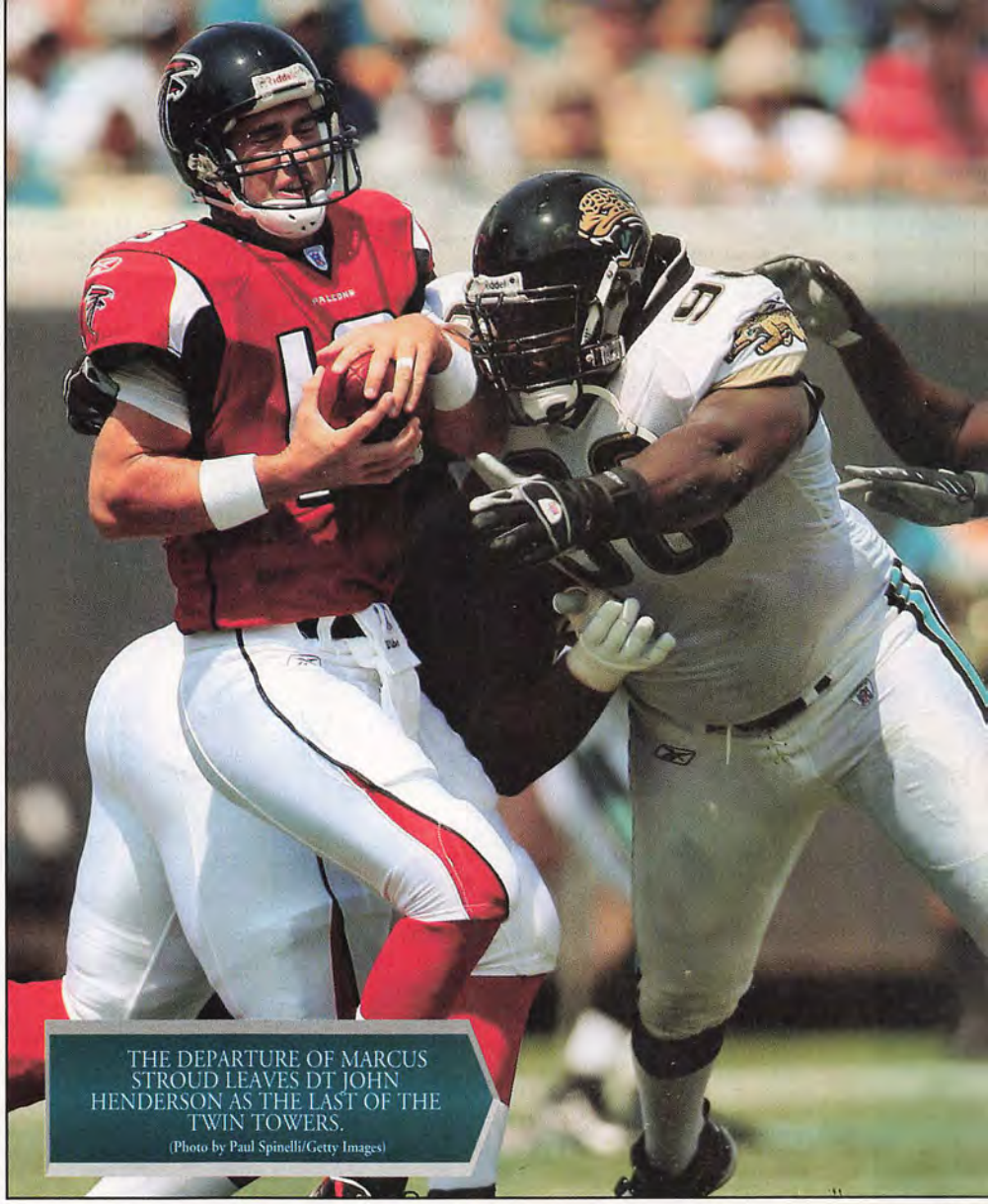
RUNNING BACKS

The Jaguars ranked second in the league in rushing yardage last year because of their running back combo of Fred Taylor and Maurice Jones-Drew. And they also have a solid fullback in Greg Jones. Taylor, who rushed for 1,202 yards last year, is now 17th on the all-time rushing list and has Jim Brown, who's eighth on the all-time list with 12,312 yards, in his sights. The only concern about Taylor is that he's 32, but he's yet to show any signs of slowing down. Jones-Drew, entering his third season, is an all-purpose back who set a team record with 2,250 all-purpose yards as a rookie and showed that wasn't a fluke when he added 2,014 last year. Greg Jones is mainly a blocker and short-yardage runner who rushed for 119 yards last year in 42 carries. And David Garrard, who rushed for 185 yards, gives them a running threat at quarterback.

RATING: 8.5

RECEIVERS

The Jaguars signed free agent Jerry Porter to become the No. 1 go-to receiver they've lacked since Jimmy Smith retired. If he can fill that role, he'll upgrade the passing game. They need a big-time receiver because Ernest Wilford, who led the team with only 45 catches last year, departed in free agency. Porter is a question mark, though, because he caught more than 51 passes twice in Oakland and tended to be a No. 2 receiver even before he became disgruntled. They also traded for Troy Williamson, who has speed, but has yet to show he has good hands. And they have two of last year's rookies, Mike Walker and John Broussard, coming off injured reserve. They also have Dennis Northcutt, who caught 44 passes last year, returning along with two disappointing former first-round draft picks, Reggie Williams and Matt Jones although 10 of Williams' 38 catches last year went for touchdowns.



THE DEPARTURE OF MARCUS STROUD LEAVES DT JOHN HENDERSON AS THE LAST OF THE TWIN TOWERS.
(Photo by Paul Spinelli/Getty Images)

Marcedes Lewis, a 2006 first-round pick who improved last year with 37 catches after having a disappointing rookie season, is the starting tight end. Two players, George Wrighster and Greg Estandia are coming back from the injured reserve list to join Isaac Smolko and Richard Angulo in a fight for roster spots.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Jaguars' ability to run the ball illustrates they have a good line even though none of their linemen has made the Pro Bowl. Their main task is to overcome the loss of veteran Chris Naeole, who was released after tearing a quadriceps muscle last year. Mo Williams, who lost his job at right tackle when Tony Pashos was signed as a free agent, switched to right guard after Naeole got hurt. Pashos is solid at right guard, but left tackle Khalif Barnes has been inconsistent and will be a free agent at the end of the year. Center Brad Meester and left guard Vince Manuwai are dependable veterans. But they don't have much depth because veteran Dennis Norman is their only proven backup.

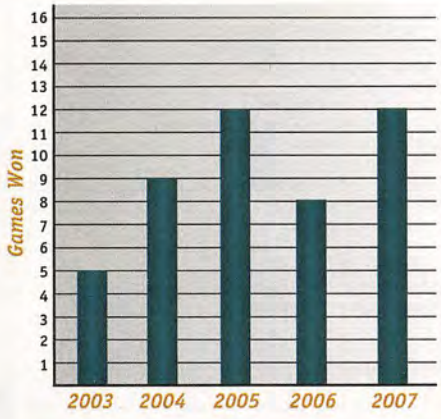
RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

One of the reasons the Jaguars dropped to 12th in defensive yardage allowed last year is that their line play eroded. Marcus Stroud, who anchored the twin towers line with John Henderson, was suspended for steroid use, went on injured reserve, played in only nine games and was traded to Buffalo. Henderson, who had off-the-field problems, struggled at times and Reggie Hayward didn't return to his old form while coming back from a torn Achilles. Also, Bobby McCray, whose sack total dipped from 10 in 2006 to three last year, left in free agency for New Orleans. That's why the Jaguars traded up in the first two rounds to grab Harvey and Groves. They're being counted on to make an immediate impact this season. They also have veteran Paul Spicer, who led the team with 7.5 sacks. Dependable Rob Meier will start at tackle in place of Stroud.

RATING: 6.5

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2005, 2007*

Jaguars Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
85	Angulo, Richard (TE)	6-8	266	4	Western New Mexico	5/0	FA 07	D7 STL 03	Backup tight end candidate is tallest player on the roster at 6-8.
15	*Broussard, John	6-1	176	2	San Jose State	8/0	D7 07	D7 JAX 07	Had just four catches and wound up on injured reserve as rookie.
83	*Estandia, Greg (TE)	6-8	265	2	Nevada-Las Vegas	10/0	FA 07	CFA CIN 06	Backup tight end candidate played in 10 games last year.
18	Jones, Matt	6-6	232	4	Arkansas	12/0	D1 05	D1 JAX 05	Former first-round pick has to fight for roster spot.
89	**Lewis, Marcedes (TE)**	**6-6**	**270**	**3**	**UCLA**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 JAX 06**	**Emerged as the starting tight end once Kyle Brady departed.**
86	**Northcutt, Dennis**	**5-11**	**172**	**9**	**Arizona**	**15/11**	**UFA,CLV 07**	**D2 CLV 00**	**Once again, he dropped a critical playoff pass.**
80	**Porter, Jerry**	**6-2**	**220**	**9**	**West Virginia**	**16/16**	**UFA,OAK 08**	**D2 OAK 00**	**Signed to become the team's go-to receiver.**
47	Smolko, Isaac (TE)	6-5	260	2	Penn State	6/0	FA 07	CFA PITT 06	Backup tight end candidate played in six games last year.
81	*Walker, Mike	6-2	208	2	UCF	0/0	D3 07	D3 JAX 07	Third-round pick spent rookie year on injured reserve.
11	Williams, Reggie	6-4	212	5	Washington	15/6	D1 04	D1 JAX 04	Caught 10 touchdown passes last season.
84	Williamson, Troy	6-1	203	4	South Carolina	11/8	T,MINN 08	D1 MINN 05	Gets second chance to jump-start career.
87	*Wrighster, George (TE)	6-3	265	6	Oregon	11/6	D4 03	D4 JAX 03	Backup tight end went on injured reserve in November.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	**Barnes, Khalif (T)**	**6-5**	**325**	**4**	**Washington**	**16/14**	**D2 05**	**D2 JAX 05**	**In a contract year in his fourth season.**
75	Carnahan, Andrew (T)	6-7	305	1	Arizona State	0/0	FA 08	D7 JAX 07	Spent last season on practice squad.
76	Collier, Richard (T)	6-7	350	3	Valdosta State	4/1	CFA 06	CFA JAX 06	Played in four games, started one last year.
67	**Manuwai, Vincent (G)**	**6-2**	**336**	**6**	**Hawaii**	**15/15**	**D3 03**	**D3 JAX 03**	**Developing into solid left guard.**
63	**Meester, Brad (C)**	**6-3**	**295**	**9**	**Northern Iowa**	**11/11**	**D2 00**	**D2 JAX 00**	**Veteran missed first five games with ankle injury.**
62	Norman, Dennis (C/G)	6-5	322	8	Princeton	15/5	FA 04	D7 SEA 01	Solid backup who can play any position.
77	Nwaneri, Uche (G)	6-3	320	2	Purdue	9/1	D5 07	D5 JAX 07	Will challenge Mo Williams for right guard slot.
79	**Pashos, Tony (T)**	**6-6**	**325**	**6**	**Illinois**	**15/15**	**UFA,BLT 07**	**D5 BLT 03**	**Free agent in 2006 settled in at the right tackle spot.**
78	Reyes, Tutan (G)	6-3	310	9	Mississippi	1/0	FA 07	D5 NO 00	Veteran will fight for roster spot.
74	**Williams, Maurice (G)**	**6-5**	**302**	**8**	**Michigan**	**14/10**	**D4 01**	**D4 JAX 01**	**Former right tackle candidate is replacement for right guard Chris Naeole.**
RUNNING BACKS									
32	Jones-Drew, Maurice (KR)	5-7	208	3	UCLA	15/0	D2 06	D2 JAX 06	Has charisma and is becoming face of team.
33	**Jones, Greg (FB)**	**6-1**	**254**	**5**	**Florida State**	**16/11**	**D2 04**	**D2 JAX 04**	**Solid short-yardage runner and blocker.**
24	Owens, Montell (FB)	5-10	225	3	Maine	16/0	CFA 06	CFA JAX 06	One of the team's best special teams players.
28	**Taylor, Fred**	**6-1**	**228**	**11**	**Florida**	**15/15**	**D1 98**	**D1 JAX 98**	**Finally played in his first Pro Bowl last year.**
34	Washington, Chauncey	5-11	218	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D7 08	D7 JAX 08	Rookie a candidate for practice squad.
QUARTERBACKS									
4	Bouman, Todd	6-2	226	10	St. Cloud State	0/0	FA 08	CFA MINN 97	Will fight for a No. 3 slot if they keep three.
9	**Garrard, David**	**6-1**	**245**	**7**	**East Carolina**	**12/12**	**D4 02**	**D4 JAX 02**	**Emerged as the team's franchise quarterback and signed a new contract to reflect that.**
17	Lemon, Cleo	6-2	215	5	Arkansas State	9/7	UFA,MIA 08	CFA BLT 02	Replaces Quinn Gray as backup quarterback.
12	Smith, Paul	6-1	208	R	Tulsa	0/0	CFA 08	CFA JAX 08	Undrafted rookie will vie for No. 3 slot.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
93	Groves, Quentin (E)	6-3	259	R	Auburn	0/0	D2 08	D2 JAX 08	Will be a designated pass rusher this year.
91	**Harvey, Derrick (E)**	**6-5**	**271**	**R**	**Florida**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 JAX 08**	**Top draft pick counted on to make quick impact.**
97	Hayward, Reggie (E)	6-5	275	8	Iowa State	12/10	UFA,DEN 05	D3 DEN 01	Still trying to overcome torn Achilles tendon.
98	**Henderson, John (T)**	**6-7**	**335**	**7**	**Tennessee**	**15/15**	**D1 02**	**D1 JAX 02**	**Trying to rebound from subpar year.**
70	Kennedy, Jimmy (T)	6-4	320	5	Penn State	3/3	UFA,CHI 08	D1 STL 03	Attempting to salvage his career.
66	Landri, Derek (T)	6-2	282	2	Notre Dame	13/0	D5 07	D5 JAX 07	Had a big-time game in Pittsburgh playoff win.
96	*McDaniel, Tony (T)	6-7	310	3	Tennessee	4/0	CFA 06	CFA JAX 06	Went on injured reserve last year with broken wrist.
92	**Meier, Rob (T)**	**6-5**	**308**	**9**	**Washington State**	**16/9**	**D7 00**	**D7 JAX 00**	**Will start now that Marcus Stroud has departed.**
94	Mincey, Jeremy (E)	6-3	265	2	Florida	6/0	FA 06	D6 NE 06	Harvey and Groves may make him expendable.
49	*Smith, Brian (E)	6-3	236	2	Missouri	0/0	D4 07	D4 JAX 07	Spent rookie season on reserve with broken hip suffered in final college season.
95	**Spicer, Paul (E)**	**6-4**	**295**	**9**	**Saginaw Valley State**	**15/12**	**FA 00**	**CFA SEA 98**	**Overachieving veteran who's a team leader.**
90	*Wyche, James (E)	6-5	275	3	Syracuse	0/0	FA 06	D7 JAX 06	Missed last season with a groin injury.
LINEBACKERS									
56	Durant, Justin (O)	6-1	232	2	Hampton	13/8	D2 07	D2 JAX 07	Started after Peterson was injured last season.
50	*Gilbert, Tony (M)	6-0	255	6	Georgia	0/0	FA 03	D6 ARIZ 03	Spent last year on injured reserve after suffering biceps injury.
57	Hawkins, Brent	6-2	250	3	Illinois State	14/0	D5 06	D5 JAX 06	This is his make-or-break third season.
51	**Ingram, Clint (O)**	**6-2**	**238**	**3**	**Oklahoma**	**13/11**	**D3 06**	**D3 JAX 06**	**Started 22 of 27 games in first two seasons.**
59	Iwuh, Brian (O)	6-0	235	3	Colorado	16/1	FA 06	CFA JAX 06	Ranked second on team with 22 special teams tackles.
54	**Peterson, Mike (M)**	**6-1**	**238**	**10**	**Florida**	**10/10**	**UFA,IND 03**	**D2 IND 99**	**Veteran leader returning from a broken hand.**
58	Pettway, Lenny (O)	6-4	248	4	Grambling	10/0	FA 06	D7 HOUS 05	Special teams player will fight for roster spot.
52	**Smith, Daryl (O)**	**6-2**	**245**	**5**	**Georgia Tech**	**15/15**	**D2 04**	**D2 JAX 04**	**Versatile player can start inside or outside.**
53	Williams, Thomas	6-1	225	R	Southern Cal	0/0	D5 08	D5 JAX 08	Noted for his special teams play at Southern Cal.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	Florence, Drayton (CB)	6-0	195	6	Tuskegee	16/10	UFA,SD 08	D2 SD 03	Veteran free agent figures to bolster secondary.
23	Fudge, Jamaal (S)	5-9	194	3	Clemson	14/0	FA 06	CFA JAX 06	Ranked third on team with 14 special teams tackles.
27	**Mathis, Rashean (CB)**	**6-1**	**190**	**6**	**Bethune-Cookman**	**14/14**	**D2 03**	**D2 JAX 03**	**Needs to rebound to regain Pro Bowl form.**
25	**Nelson, Reggie (S)**	**5-11**	**198**	**2**	**Florida**	**16/15**	**D1 07**	**D1 JAX 07**	**Started 15 games as a rookie.**
42	Nkang, Chad	5-11	215	2	Elon	16/0	D7 07	D7 JAX 07	Set team record with 30 special teams tackles.
20	Prioleau, Pierson (S)	5-11	188	10	Virginia Tech	15/4	UFA,WSH 08	D4 SF 99	Familiar with Gregg Williams system from days in Washington.
43	***Sensabaugh, Gerald (S)**	**6-0**	**204**	**4**	**North Carolina**	**2/2**	**D5 05**	**D5 JAX 05**	**Returning from two torn labrums.**
31	Starks, Scott (CB)	5-9	176	4	Wisconsin	16/0	D3 05	D3 JAX 05	Will vie for nickel back position.
29	**Williams, Brian (CB)**	**5-11**	**202**	**7**	**North Carolina State**	**14/14**	**UFA,MINN 06**	**D4 MINN 02**	**Could be switched to safety if Florence starts.**
22	Williams, Trae (CB)	5-9	192	R	South Florida	0/0	D5 08	D5 JAX 08	Will battle for special teams job.
SPECIALISTS									
3	Podlesh, Adam (P)	5-11	198	2	Maryland	16/0	D4 07	D4 JAX 07	Struggled at times in his rookie season.
10	Scobee, Josh (K)	6-1	192	5	Louisiana Tech	8/0	D5 04	D5 JAX 04	Came back from quad injury to make 12 of 13 field-goal attempts.
88	Zelenka, Joe (LS/TE)	6-3	256	10	Wake Forest	16/0	FA 01	CFA SF 99	Dependable long snapper who's very accurate.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Clyde Edwards (Grambling), Jeron Harvey (Houston), D'Juan Woods (1, Oklahoma State); TEs Adam Bishop (Nevada), Chris Brown (Tennessee), Charles Davis (1, Purdue); OTs Ryan Gibbons (1, Northeastern), Pete McMahon (1, Iowa); C/G Drew Miller (Florida); RBs Anthony Cotrone (Maine), D.D. Terry (1, Sam Houston); DE Alex Boston (Florida State); DT Theo Horrocks (Vanderbilt); LB Lamar Myles (Louisville); CBs Isaiah Gardner (Maryland), Michael Grant (Arkansas), Rashod Moulton (1, Fort Valley State), Brian Witherspoon (Stillman); LS Brett Goode (1, Arkansas).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Whether David Garrard can repeat his performance of 2007 and join the ranks of the elite quarterbacks in the league. Garrard's fine showing last year earned him a big contract extension. Now he has to prove he can play at that level again.
2. Improving the pass rush. They traded up in the first two rounds of the draft to select Derrick Harvey and Quentin Groves because the team tied for ninth in sacks last year with 37. They need Harvey and Groves to make an immediate impact.
3. Fred Taylor's production at age 32. Taylor rushed for 1,146 yards in 2006 at age 30 and 1,202 yards last year at age 31. Now the challenge for him is to prove he can still be a 1,000-yard runner at age 32.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Rashean Mathis

Rashean Mathis set a team record with eight interceptions in 2006 and made the Pro Bowl for the first time. But he pulled a quad in the Pro Bowl and the injury lingered the entire offseason. He then was bothered with other nagging injuries, including a groin injury that sidelined him for a game, and he never got into a groove. He wound up with just one regular-season interception, although he picked off Ben Roethlisberger twice in the wild-card playoff game and returned one 63 yards for a touchdown.

Now the challenge for Mathis this year will be to stay healthy and return to his Pro Bowl form.

Coach Jack Del Rio said Mathis and the team became too cautious last year.

"I thought we kind of got into a mode with him of not wanting to go backwards with that injury. We were very cautious and I think that kind of carried into the season where he was almost playing not to get hurt," Del Rio said.

"We want to get back to Rashean being Rashean," he said. "He's a great football player, a great leader on our football team and I'm confident he's going to have a heckuva offseason and a great year for us."

LINEBACKERS

The return of Mike Peterson, who missed the last six regular season games and the playoffs with a broken hand, will make this one of the best units on the team. Peterson is the team's best tackler and he spearheads the defense. His return means that Darryl Smith can move back outside and Clint Ingram and Justin Durant, who started on the outside when Smith moved to the middle, will vie for a starting job. And rookie Thomas Williams of Southern Cal, a fifth-round pick who is a special teams dynamo, will add depth.

RATING: 8

SECONDARY

The Jaguars have some concerns about this position. Rashean Mathis was slowed by injuries last year and will be trying to recover his Pro Bowl form of 2006. Brian Williams struggled at times on the other corner and Reggie Wayne of the Colts went 14-for-14 when he was matched up against Williams, who also has off-the-field issues. That's why the Jaguars signed cornerback Drayton Florence of San Diego. His arrival could mean that Williams will switch to strong safety where Sammy Knight, a one-year stopgap, departed in free agency. Gerald Sensabaugh, returning from two torn labrums, also will vie for the strong safety job. Reggie Nelson, who started as a rookie and was victimized at times, will return and should upgrade his game with more experience. The loss of Knight and Terry Cousin, who wasn't re-signed, hurts their depth and Scott Starks should play a bigger role.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Under new coach Joe DeCamillis, the Jaguars upgraded their special teams except for a meltdown in the final regular-season game in Houston when the majority of starters rested and the special teams players had to see double duty. The coverage teams were led by rookie Chad Nkang, who set a team record with 30 special teams tackles. Jones-Drew ranked sixth in the league with an average of 26.2 yards on kickoff returns and Dennis Northcutt was 12th with an average of 9.2 yards per punt return. Kicker Josh Scobee injured his quadriceps in pre-game warmups for the opener and missed eight games, but made 12 of 13 field-goal attempts after he came back. Adam Podlesh struggled at times as a rookie punter, but showed potential for the future.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The Jaguars have to find a way to beat the elite in the AFC if they are ever to reach the next level. Belieiving it is one thing; doing it is another.

RATING: Plus 1

—Vito Stellino

2007 RESULTS

Record: 12-6

Sep. 9	TENNESSEE	10-13
Sep. 16	ATLANTA	13- 7
Sep. 23	at Denver	23-14
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	at Kansas City	17- 7
Oct. 14	HOUSTON	37-17
Oct. 22	INDIANAPOLIS (Mon.)	7-29
Oct. 28	at Tampa Bay	24-23
Nov. 4	at New Orleans	24-41
Nov. 11	at Tennessee	28-13
Nov. 18	SAN DIEGO	24-17
Nov. 25	BUFFALO	36-14
Dec. 2	at Indianapolis	25-28
Dec. 9	CAROLINA	37- 6
Dec. 16	at Pittsburgh	29-22
Dec. 23	OAKLAND	49-11
Dec. 30	at Houston	28-42
Jan. 5	at Pittsburgh (Sat.)	31-29
Jan. 12	at New England (Sat.)	20-31

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	ATLANTA (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 16	MIAMI (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 23	at Tampa Bay (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at Washington (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at Tennessee	12:00
Sep. 14	BUFFALO	1:00
Sep. 21	at Indianapolis	4:15
Sep. 28	HOUSTON	1:00
Oct. 5	PITTSBURGH	8:15
Oct. 12	at Denver	2:05
Oct. 19	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 26	CLEVELAND	4:05
Nov. 2	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov. 9	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 16	TENNESSEE	1:00
Nov. 23	MINNESOTA	1:00
Dec. 1	at Houston (Mon.)	7:30
Dec. 7	at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 14	GREEN BAY	1:00
Dec. 18	INDIANAPOLIS (Thu.)	8:15
Dec. 28	at Baltimore	1:00

TENNESSEE TITANS

2007 RECORD: 10-7 | STADIUM: LP Field, 68,804, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 3rd

AFC SOUTH | www.titansonline.com

AT A GLANCE

460 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 565-4000

TRAINING CAMP:
Baptist Sports Park; Nashville, TN

COACH:
Jeff Fisher, 15th full year with Titans and as NFL head coach (120-104)

PRESIDENT/COO:
Bud Adams

GENERAL MANAGER:
Mike Reinfeldt

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Mike Ackerley

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Lake Dawson

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Mike Heimerdinger	Offensive coordinator	14	6
Craig Johnson	Quarterbacks	9	9
Mike Munchak	Offensive line	12	12
Earnest Byner	Running backs	25	1
Fred Graves	Receivers	7	2
John Zernhelt	Tight ends	4	3
Jim Schwartz	Defensive coordinator	16	10
Jim Washburn	Defensive line	10	10
Dave McGinnis	*Linebackers	23	5
Chuck Cecil	Secondary	8	8
Marcus Robertson	Asst. Secondary	2	2
Matt Burke	Def. quality control	3	3
Alan Lowry	Special teams	27	13
Marty Galbraith	Special teams asst.	6	4
Steve Watterson	Strength & Conditioning	25	23

*Assistant head coach

Titans Need to Get the Best Out of Young

The Titans went 10-6 and earned a playoff spot in 2007 despite a grand total of nine touchdown passes. A year later, they believe they've upgraded the weapons and coaching at quarterback Vince Young's disposal.

With Young heading into his third year, the Titans will more often spread the field and let him do the things that made him so successful at Texas. The Titans didn't do a lot to upgrade his receiving corps, but he got a top-flight tight end in free agency in Alge Crumpler and a super-fast third-down back who can catch with the first-round pick of Chris Johnson.

If the offense can score more, the defense will have a larger margin of error and Tennessee won't have to rely so much on kicker Rob Bironas.

Closing the gap on Indianapolis and Jacksonville in the AFC South won't be easy and the revamped offense will be tested quickly with games against the Jaguars, Vikings and Ravens in the first five of the season.

COACHING

Jeff Fisher's long-term stability means his assistants have security and don't have to fret about their futures. They are also able to show Vince Young the sort of patience he requires to develop properly. The stability is also great for the offensive and defensive lines, where Mike Munchak and Jim Washburn, respectively, have strong track records of developing players. Mike Heimerdinger returns for a second stint as offensive coordinator with a lot better knowledge of how to create favorable matchups than he had when he was a first-time coordinator in 2000. Earnest Byner takes over as running backs coach, replacing long-time assistant Sherman Smith, who went to Washington to coordinate.

RATING: 8.5

QUARTERBACKS

Vince Young took a step back in his second season after winning Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2006. He was often frustrated as he managed to throw only nine touchdown passes all season. He missed one start and was hampered in the middle of the season as he returned from a quad injury. He ran much less decisively and much less effectively than in his rookie year, sometimes seeming determined to remain in the pocket. It wasn't all bad, of course. He posted a 9-6 record and became the franchise's youngest quarterback to start a playoff game and while his accuracy was still off at times, his percentage went up to 62.3 percent, nearly 11 points better than 2006. New offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger was brought back to develop Young and will put him in situations where he's got favorable matchups and a spread field to work with. Kerry Collins saw action in six games, winning his one start.

RATING: 7

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
DE Jevon Kearse

A big-dollar bust in Philly, the defensive end returns to the team where he got The Freak on. No one can get more out of him than his first position coach, Jim Washburn.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
TE Dwayne Blakley, CB/S Chris Carr, TE Alge Crumpler, WR Justin McCareins, P Josh Miller, OG Jake Scott, LB Josh Stamer

KEY LOSS:
DEs Antwan Odom (16/16) and Travis LaBoy (13/0)*
They combined to be an excellent defensive player in 2007. As the left defensive ends, they recorded 14 sacks, leading to free-agent riches for both.

OTHER LOSSES:
OG Jacob Bell (16/16), RB Chris Brown (12/1), LB Gilbert Gardner (13/0), WR David Givens (0/0), TE Ben Hartsock (16/9), CB Kelly Herndon (4/0), CB Chidi Iwuoma (1/0), CB Pacman Jones (0/0), WR Eric Moulds (16/8), OG Benji Olson (13/13), LB Rich Scanlon (9/0), DT Randy Starks (14/4), TE Ben Troupe (16/2)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 7 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

RUNNING BACKS

Despite all the questions about his conditioning, LenDale White won a lot of respect by showing excellent toughness, playing through a variety of nicks to start 16 games, running for 1,110 yards and topping 100 yards in five games. He showed good vision and feet and as he learns what sort of condition he needs to be on to make things easier, he should flourish as the lead guy in a power attack. After years of talking about a third-down change-up, the Titans invested the 24th pick in the draft on Chris Johnson, a super-fast back who can complement White's power game with outside running and can line up and catch like a wide receiver. Chris Henry showed poor instincts and vision as a rookie, but the team is certain he will prove to be a player. Fullback Ahmard Hall is an underrated player who may force Heimerdinger to go to two-back more often than he did in the past. But there is no true backup, and they will use plenty of two-tight and three-wide sets.

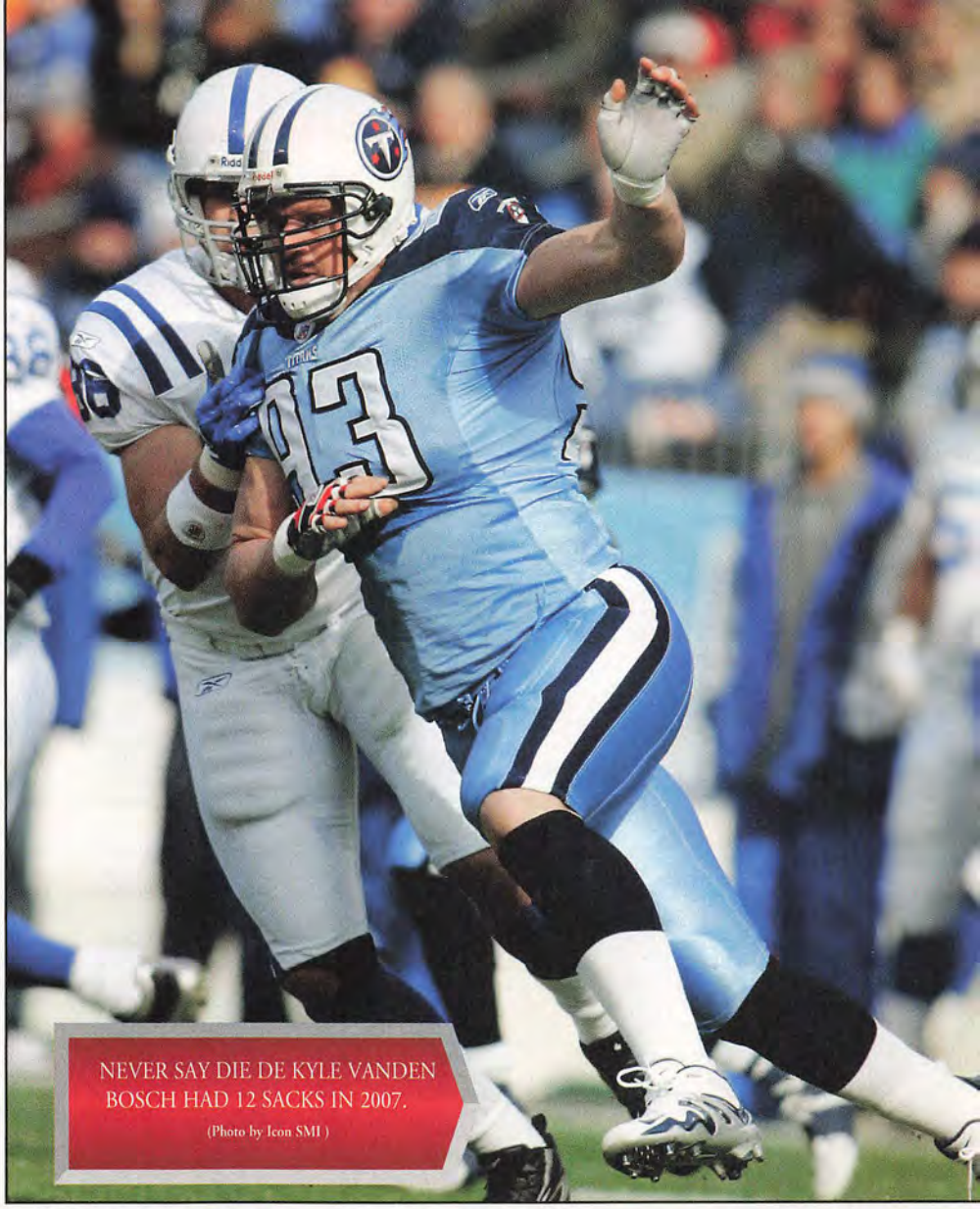
RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

The additions to a position lacking playmakers were minimal: Justin McCareins, a former Heimerdinger favorite, returned as a free agent, and Lavelle Hawkins came in as a fourth rounder from Cal. The coordinator developed players like Derrick Mason, Drew Bennett and McCareins before, and the Titans expect he will help develop a couple out of a large group. Justin Gage and Roydell Williams are coming off solid, if unspectacular, years. Brandon Jones is another veteran due to take off. Second-year players Paul Williams, Biren Ealy and Chris Davis have untapped potential. Mike Williams lost the weight Fisher asked him to lose early in the off-season, but remains a long shot to rebound from disappointing stints in Detroit and Oakland and develop into something significant.

Tight end Alge Crumpler was the most significant veteran addition and should be a big part of the equation designed to solve red-zone struggles. Two tight ends who are more blockers than receivers — veteran Dwayne Blakley and third-round pick Craig Stevens from Cal — will also be factors.

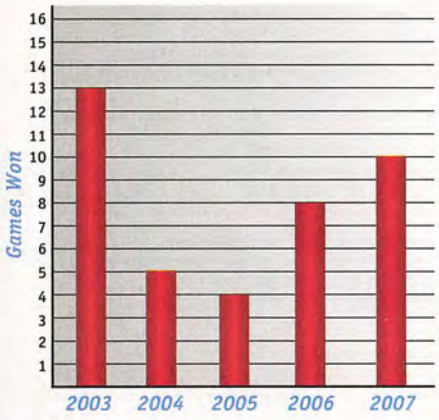
RATING: 6



NEVER SAY DIE DE KYLE VANDEN BOSCH HAD 12 SACKS IN 2007.

(Photo by Icon SMI)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2007*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Tennessee took off-season hits in free agency and retirement but may have come through it better. Left guard Jacob Bell left for St. Louis and right guard Benji Olson retired after nine strong seasons as a durable, dependable starter. Jake Scott, a free-agent addition from Indianapolis, will take Olson's slot. Three youngsters will vie to replace Bell, with Eugene Amano starting off as the favorite in a competition with Leroy Harris and Daniel Loper. The Titans didn't draft a lineman for the second time in three years, and may look for a versatile veteran backup tackle before the season opens in case left tackle Michael Roos or right tackle David Stewart goes down. Center Kevin Mawae is starting to show his age and Amano or Harris could replace him in a year or two.

RATING: 8

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

This group keyed an impressive defensive renaissance last season, as the unit jumped from 32nd in the NFL to fifth. At right tackle, Albert Haynesworth was dominant when healthy, but a hamstring injury kept him from doing it all season. When he was beside fellow Pro Bowler Kyle Vanden Bosch, the right end, offenses simply couldn't block them up. And on the other side, Antwan Odom and Travis LaBoy combined for 14 sacks. They left for free-agent riches, and now the Titans turn to Jevon Kearse and two draft picks, Jason Jones and William Hayes, to replace the production.

Interior depth is a lingering question mark, but the team hopes Jones can move inside some and 2007 fifth-rounder Antonio Johnson makes it back from the ACL injury that cost him his rookie season. Tony Brown starts at left tackle, but when Haynesworth was out Brown did little to impress.

RATING: 8

Titans Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
84	Blakley, Dwayne (TE)	6-4	257	5	Missouri	12/3	UFA,ATL 08	CFA KC 02	UFA addition deserved to make the team after strong camp back in 2004.
83	**Crumpler, Alge (TE)**	**6-2**	**262**	**8**	**North Carolina**	**14/10**	**FA 08**	**D2 ATL 01**	**Red-zone production should have direct impact on Bironas field-goal attempts.**
17	Davis, Chris	5-10	181	2	Florida State	12/0	D4 07	D4 TENN 07	Didn't do enough to seize opportunities on offense, special teams in rookie campaign.
82	Ealy, Biren	6-3	207	2	Houston	4/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 07	Undrafted second-year player outplays drafted players and earns a roster spot.
12	**Gage, Justin**	**6-4**	**212**	**6**	**Missouri**	**16/8**	**UFA,CHI 07**	**D5 CHI 03**	**Did solid work with Titans to rehabilitate career in 2007.**
87	Hawkins, Lavelle	5-11	190	R	California	0/0	D4 08	D4 TENN 08	Understands schemes and holes and how to get open underneath.
81	*Jones, Brandon	6-1	212	4	Oklahoma	9/2	D3 05	D3 TENN 05	Overdue for a complete, healthy and solid season.
19	McCareins, Justin	6-2	215	8	Northern Illinois	16/6	FA 08	D4 TENN 01	After returning to Tennessee, he's looking to do what Gage did.
85	Petrowski, Jamie (TE)	6-4	250	1	Indiana State	0/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 07	Not a lot of room for him in crowded tight end group.
80	*Scaife, Bo (TE)	6-3	249	4	Texas Tech	16/15	D6 05	D6 TB 05	With Crumpler and Stevens added, he could be a lot better in narrower role.
44	Stephens, Leonard (TE)	6-3	252	2	Howard	0/0	FA 08	CFA SD 00	Highly unlikely he can break through and stick.
88	Stevens, Craig (TE)	6-3	255	R	California	0/0	D3 08	D3 TENN 08	Could be best on-the-line presence since Erron Kinney.
18	Williams, Mike	6-5	242	4	Southern Cal	8/1	FA 07	D1 DET 05	Lost weight early in offseason, still a long shot.
11	Williams, Paul	6-1	205	2	Fresno State	0/0	D3 07	D3 TENN 07	Didn't even earn an opportunity to suit up in rookie season.
86	***Williams, Roydell**	**6-0**	**187**	**4**	**Tulane**	**16/14**	**D4 05**	**D4 TENN 05**	**Had some big games, needs to show consistency.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
54	**Amano, Eugene (G/C)**	**6-3**	**310**	**5**	**Southeast Missouri**	**16/5**	**D7 04**	**D4 TENN 04**	**Early favorite to win open starting left guard job.**
64	Harris, Leroy (G/C)	6-3	302	3	North Carolina State	5/0	D4 07	D4 TENN 07	Really impressed coaches as rookie, will challenge Amano.
70	Loper, Daniel (T)	6-6	320	4	Texas Tech	16/0	D5 05	D5 TENN 05	Played very well in his chances at both tackle and guard.
68	**Mawae, Kevin (C)**	**6-4**	**289**	**15**	**Louisiana State**	**14/14**	**FA 06**	**D2 SEA 94**	**Slowing down a bit, but holds the group together.**
66	Otto, Mike (T)	6-5	308	1	Purdue	0/0	D7 07	D7 TENN 07	Practice squadder in '07 has an outside chance at a roster spot.
71	**Roos, Michael (T)**	**6-7**	**315**	**4**	**Eastern Washington**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 TENN 05**	**Play earned him a six-year contract with $7 million average.**
73	**Scott, Jake (G)**	**6-5**	**295**	**5**	**Idaho**	**16/16**	**UFA,IND 08**	**D5 IND 04**	**Will be tough to match Benji Olson's consistency and durability.**
76	**Stewart, David (T)**	**6-7**	**318**	**4**	**Mississippi State**	**16/16**	**D4 05**	**D4 TENN 05**	**Big Country brings a nastiness the Titans just love.**
RUNNING BACKS									
40	Cain, Jeremy (FB/LS)	6-1	240	3	Massachusetts	9/0	FA 07	CFA CHI 04	Ken Amato's return from injury means long snapping job is filled.
48	Cramer, Casey (FB)	6-2	250	5	Dartmouth	5/1	W,CAR0 06	D7 TB 04	No longer in top four tight ends on roster, can he make them keep a second fullback?
35	Ganther, Quinton	5-9	214	1	Utah	2/0	FA 08	D7 TENN 06	Drafting of Johnson likely means end of the road.
45	**Hall, Ahmard (FB)**	**5-11**	**242**	**3**	**Texas**	**11/4**	**CFA 06**	**CFA TENN 06**	**Undervalued blocker is pretty good with the ball in his hands too.**
42	Henry, Chris	5-11	230	2	Arizona	7/0	D2 07	D2 TENN 07	Titans keep saying they are fine with his progress. Why?
29	Johnson, Chris	5-11	200	R	East Carolina	0/0	D1 08	D1 TENN 08	Expected to add a new, explosive dynamic as third-down guy.
25	**White, LenDale**	**6-1**	**235**	**3**	**Southern Cal**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 TENN 06**	**If he works harder at conditioning, he can get much better.**
QUARTERBACKS									
5	Collins, Kerry	6-5	245	14	Penn State	6/1	FA 06	D1 CAR 95	Reliable backup has found a good situation to finish career.
3	Martin, Ingle	6-2	220	2	Furman	0/0	FA 08	D5 GB 06	Unlikely the Titans will use a third roster spot on a quarterback.
10	**Young, Vince**	**6-5**	**233**	**3**	**Texas**	**15/15**	**D1 06**	**D1 TENN 06**	**New coordinator should be a big help to his confidence.**
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
98	Ball, Dave (E)	6-5	277	4	UCLA	0/0	FA 08	D5 SD 04	Will improve with coaching, but should have a tough time vaulting competition.
97	**Brown, Tony (T)**	**6-3**	**285**	**4**	**Memphis**	**16/16**	**FA 06**	**CFA CAR0 03**	**Good in a supporting role, struggled when Haynesworth was out.**
77	Conover, Sean (E)	6-5	262	3	Bucknell	5/0	FA 06	CFA TENN 06	Draft additions likely take his roster spot away.
94	Fisher, Bryce (E)	6-3	265	8	Air Force	10/0	T,SEA 07	D7 BUFF 99	Completely unimpressive after arrival in trade from Seattle.
78	*Ford, Jacob (E)	6-4	251	2	Central Arkansas	0/0	D6 07	D6 TENN 07	Coming off a shredded Achilles that cost him rookie year.
95	Hayes, William (E)	6-3	272	R	Winston-Salem	0/0	D4 08	D4 TENN 08	Eager to prove that his small-school experience will translate to NFL.
92	**Haynesworth, Albert (T)**	**6-6**	**320**	**7**	**Tennessee**	**13/12**	**D1 02**	**D1 TENN 02**	**How will he play if he doesn't get long-term deal before July 15?**
99	*Johnson, Antonio (T)	6-3	310	2	Mississippi State	0/0	D5 07	D5 TENN 07	Could be third interior guy if he's back from knee injury.
91	Jones, Jason (T)	6-5	275	R	Eastern Michigan	0/0	D2 08	D2 TENN 08	Versatility means he can play end and tackle; maybe right away.
90	**Kearse, Jevon (E)**	**6-4**	**265**	**10**	**Florida**	**14/8**	**FA 08**	**D1 TENN 99**	**Possible he's productive again if used as rush specialist.**
93	**Vanden Bosch, Kyle (E)**	**6-4**	**278**	**8**	**Nebraska**	**16/16**	**UFA,ARIZ 05**	**D2 ARIZ 01**	**High-motor leader is team's excellent tone setter.**
96	Vickerson, Kevin (T)	6-5	305	3	Michigan State	4/0	FA 07	D7 MIA 05	The Titans need to do much better with defensive tackle depth.
LINEBACKERS									
56	Allred, Colin (M)	6-1	238	1	Baylor	3/0	FA 07	CFA TENN 06	Hard worker likely to lose out to newcomers.
53	**Bulluck, Keith (O)**	**6-3**	**235**	**9**	**Syracuse**	**16/16**	**D1 00**	**D1 TENN 00**	**Continued to play at a high level in eighth season.**
49	Campbell, Kurt	6-1	227	3	Albany State (N.Y.)	0/0	FA 08	D7 GB 05	Finished '07 on practice squad when Titans were thinned by injuries.
51	Cordova, Jorge (O)	6-1	244	4	Nevada	4/0	FA 07	D3 JAX 04	Only wound up with '07 Titans because of holes created by injuries.
52	***Fowler, Ryan (I)**	**6-3**	**250**	**5**	**Duke**	**14/14**	**RFA,DALL 07**	**CFA DALL 04**	**Coming off nasty shoulder injury, but should be better in second year.**
59	Keglar, Stanford	6-2	240	R	Purdue	0/0	D4 08	D4 TENN 08	Speed should mean impact on special teams from start.
57	Stamer, Josh (O)	6-2	242	6	South Dakota	16/0	UFA,BUFF 08	CFA NYG 01	Expected to be big on special teams while upgrading backup situation.
50	**Thornton, David (O)**	**6-2**	**225**	**7**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**UFA,IND 06**	**D4 IND 02**	**Excellent play was under-publicized in 2007.**
55	Tulloch, Stephen (M)	5-11	235	3	North Carolina State	16/1	D4 06	D4 TENN 06	Settling in, he looks to have a bright future.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
28	Carr, Chris (CB)	5-10	180	4	Boise State	16/2	RFA,OAK 08	CFA OAK 05	A versatile RFA addition who may be kickoff return man.
31	**Finnegan, Cortland (CB)**	**5-10**	**188**	**3**	**Samford**	**16/16**	**D7 06**	**D7 TENN 06**	**A big hitter for a corner, and he may be team's fastest defender.**
22	Fuller, Vincent (S)	6-1	190	4	Virginia Tech	16/0	D4 05	D4 TENN 05	Didn't finish great, but is a diligent worker who cares a lot.
33	**Griffin, Michael (S)**	**6-0**	**202**	**2**	**Texas**	**16/10**	**D1 07**	**D1 TENN 07**	**He's a good player who should make a huge jump in second season.**
20	**Harper, Nick (CB)**	**5-10**	**182**	**8**	**Fort Valley State**	**14/14**	**UFA,IND 07**	**CFA IND 01**	**Held up pretty well in first season with Titans as Pacman's replacement.**
21	Hill, Reynaldo (CB)	5-11	185	4	Florida	13/2	D7 05	D7TENN 05	Can slide in to start a couple games when needed.
24	***Hope, Chris (S)**	**6-0**	**208**	**7**	**Florida State**	**11/11**	**UFA,PITT 06**	**D3 PITT 02**	**Was missed when lost to neck injury; solid player and leader on track for return.**
30	*King, Eric (CB)	5-10	185	4	Wake Forest	15/1	W,BUFF 06	D5 BUFF 05	If he matches 2007 training camp, could seize bigger role.
37	Lowry, Calvin (S)	5-11	200	3	Penn State	16/11	D4 06	D4 TENN 06	Didn't handle elevation of Griffin especially well.
23	Nickey, Donnie (S)	6-3	210	6	Ohio State	16/0	FA 04	D5 TENN 03	Has amazing staying power for very average performer.
41	Williams, Cary (CB)	6-1	185	R	Washburn	0/0	D7 08	D7 TENN 08	Has the measurables; is he a good enough player?
SPECIALISTS									
58	*Amato, Ken (LS/LB)	6-2	245	6	Montana State	7/0	FA 03	CFA CAR0 02	Snapper suffered season-ending injury in two of last three years.
2	Bironas, Rob (K)	6-0	205	4	Auburn	16/0	FA 05	CFA GB 02	Can he possibly match 2007 production as Titans hope for more touchdowns?
15	Hentrich, Craig (P)	6-3	213	15	Notre Dame	15/0	UFA,GB 98	D8 NYJ 93	Remains consistently good, and does great work as holder, too.
4	Miller, Josh (P)	6-4	225	12	Arizona	1/0	FA 08	CFA GB 93	Seemed odd for Titans to sign a second veteran punter.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Edward Williams (Lane), Jason Rivers (Hawaii); OT Brock Pasteur; OG Enoka Lucas (1, Oregon State); Cs Jason Murphy (1, Virginia Tech), Eric Scott (Kentucky); C/G Fernando Velasco (Georgia); QB Paul Thompson (1, Oklahoma); RBs Omar Cuff (Delaware), Rafael Little (Kentucky); DEs Eric Taylor (1, Memphis), Ulrich Winkler (1, None); DT Barry Booker (Virginia Tech); LBs Jerrell Freeman (Mary Hardin-Baylor), Matt Muncy (1, Ohio); CBs Marquice Cole (1, Northwestern), Shirdonya Mitchell (1, Missouri); S Tony Joiner (Florida).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A receiver to blossom. Offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger helped Derrick Mason, Drew Bennett and Justin McCareins emerge. He'll do the same for a Titans receiving corps that's been middling so far. The only question is which one will emerge?
2. Some attention for Cortland Finnegan. He was fantastic in his first year as a starter. In 2008, the seventh-round pick who's helped make up for the Pacman Jones fiasco will get noticed by people outside of Nashville.
3. LenDale White to benefit from the presence of Chris Johnson. Defenses forced to chase Johnson around on third downs will get tired and when White returns to the field, he'll be better able to wear people down with his physical style.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Vince Young

Vince Young isn't in any jeopardy of losing his job. The Titans have invested big in him and have a stable coaching situation. Jeff Fisher has shown exceptional patience with a variety of players over the years, and brought Steve McNair along slowly at the start of his career. Fisher's preferred style of quarterbacking leans toward game management and effective two-minute drills, as he likes to win games with a grinding ground game and good defense. Still, the team aimed to surround Young with better talent, bringing in veteran tight end Alge Crumpler and first-round running back Chris Johnson, an excellent receiver.

New offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger, back for a second term, will look to open things up and put Young in the most advantageous situations as often as possible. McNair blossomed under Heimerdinger, but it took a toe injury to Eddie George for the Titans to really unleash him. Young regressed his second season, but still made some strides — the most important of which was helping the Titans post a 10-6 record and earn the AFC's final playoff slot. The Titans record may not bet better in 2008, but Young's numbers certainly should be. Then again, it shouldn't be too hard to top nine touchdown passes.

LINEBACKERS

A healthy David Thornton played very well in his second season as a Titan, leading the team with 140 tackles and consistently showing up at the ball carrier from his spot on the left side. On the right, Keith Bulluck didn't have to press to make plays the way he did when the Titans were the league's worst defense in 2006. Ryan Fowler came in as a restricted free agent from Dallas and won the job in the middle over youngster Stephen Tulloch until suffering a season-ending shoulder injury in the third-to-last game. Fowler will be back as the starter. Depth was poor, and the Titans hope they've upgraded with Buffalo free agent Josh Stamer and fourth-round draft pick Stanford Keglar.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

With Pacman Jones out of the equation with his year-long suspension, the 2007 Titans got strong play from starting corners Nick Harper and Cortland Finnegan. They did especially good work in run support as the Titans played more zone than they had in the past, and the coverage benefited from the good pass rush. Finnegan was a revelation and could be heading for big things. Strong safety Chris Hope, a key leader for the group, was hurt in November and a neck injury forced him to miss the last five games of the regular season. But he's on track to return after off-season surgery. The Titans insisted on converting first-round draft pick Michael Griffin to corner early on, but finally came to their senses and inserted him as their free safety after six games. That starting group returns intact. Vincent Fuller did good work as the nickel back, though he seemed to drop off late in the season. They'll be competition for that role from the likes of Eric King, Chris Carr and seventh-rounder Cary Williams.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Rob Bironas was fantastic, hitting 35 of 39 field-goal attempts. The Titans need to rely on him less. Punter Craig Hentrich continues to give the Titans a combination of placement and hang-time that they like. Pacman Jones is gone, so the search for dynamic returners will continue. Fisher will look to help convert Carr and Johnson, who've excelled at kick returns but not punt returns, into potential punt returners. Chris Davis will be in the mix too. Long snapper Ken Amano is reliable.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

One addition (Mike Heimerdinger) and one subtraction (Pacman Jones) will help improve the tone for the 2008 Titans.

RATING: Plus 1

—Paul Kuharsky

2007 RESULTS

Record: 10-7

Sep. 9	at Jacksonville	13-10
Sep. 16	INDIANAPOLIS	20-22
Sep. 24	at New Orleans (Mon.)	31-14
Sep. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	ATLANTA	20-13
Oct. 14	at Tampa Bay	10-13
Oct. 21	at Houston	38-36
Oct. 28	OAKLAND	13- 9
Nov. 4	CAROLINA	20- 7
Nov. 11	JACKSONVILLE	13-28
Nov. 19	at Denver (Mon.)	20-34
Nov. 25	at Cincinnati	6-35
Dec. 2	HOUSTON	28-20
Dec. 9	SAN DIEGO (OT)	17-23
Dec. 16	at Kansas City	26-17
Dec. 23	N.Y. JETS	10- 6
Dec. 30	at Indianapolis	16-10
Jan. 6	at San Diego	6-17

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	ST. LOUIS (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 16	OAKLAND (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 22	at Atlanta (Fri.)	7:30
Aug. 28	at Green Bay (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	JACKSONVILLE	12:00
Sep. 14	at Cincinnati	1:00
Sep. 21	HOUSTON	12:00
Sep. 28	MINNESOTA	12:00
Oct. 5	at Baltimore	1:00
Oct. 12	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 19	at Kansas City	12:00
Oct. 27	INDIANAPOLIS (Mon.)	7:30
Nov. 2	GREEN BAY	12:00
Nov. 9	at Chicago	12:00
Nov. 16	at Jacksonville	1:00
Nov. 23	N.Y. JETS	12:00
Nov. 27	at Detroit (Thu.)	12:30
Dec. 7	CLEVELAND	12:00
Dec. 14	at Houston	12:00
Dec. 21	PITTSBURGH	12:00
Dec. 28	at Indianapolis	1:00

AFC WEST

Chargers are Best of a Weak Group

San Diego has separated from the field in this division, which is in steep decline.

The Chargers became the first team in six years to win the title in back-to-back seasons. They should have no problem making it three in a row. They're one of the NFL's most talented teams for a third consecutive season.

The rest of the division is down. Denver is coming off the worst offensive year of Mike Shanahan's 13 seasons as coach and is trying to rebuild the offensive line. Kansas City opens the season with a nine-game losing streak and a new offensive coordinator. And Oakland is an NFL-worst 19-61 over the last five years.

DENVER BRONCOS

It's difficult to see a plan in place for the Broncos. They're in a mode of rampant player turnover year after year and have declined in wins two years in a row. They fell below .500 for only the second time in Mike Shanahan's 13-year reign, and his offense was never worse. They responded by firing general manager Ted Sundquist.

Shanahan's recent player overhaul was mostly devoted to his offense. In free agency, he signed potential starting receivers Darrell Jackson and Keary Colbert and center Casey Wiegmann. He used his first two picks in the draft on offensive tackle Ryan Clady and receiver/return specialist Eddie Royal.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs officially declared themselves a team in transition when they traded NFL sack champion Jared Allen to load up in the draft. Coach Herm Edwards said he hoped to net six immediate starters in the draft. He may have found at least four in defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey, offensive tackle Branden Albert, cornerback Brandon Flowers and safety DaJuan Morgan. Six will be a reach.

What the Chiefs didn't do was reassess their quarterback situation. They're sticking with Brodie Croyle and Damon Huard for at least another season. Their transition won't be complete until they get better at quarterback and on the offensive line..

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Lane Kiffin's first season as Raiders coach was typical of what we've seen lately from them. The Raiders won four games, and by season's end came reports of owner Al Davis not speaking to his coach. What else is new?

The Raiders intend to hand the team over to quarterback JaMarcus Russell, the No. 1 overall pick of the 2007 draft. To prepare for that, they signed receiver Javon Walker in free agency and drafted running back Darren McFadden with their first pick.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

You can hear the clock ticking on the Chargers. For three years running, they've had the most talent in the AFC and they haven't made the breakthrough into the Super Bowl. At least last year they won a playoff game before losing the AFC championship to New England with three star offensive players hobbled or out.

They'll really need to keep running back LaDainian Tomlinson healthy now because Michael Turner, one of the best backup backs in the league, left for Atlanta in free agency. The Chargers didn't do much to replace him. As strong as they are, the Chargers just may be a team on a slow descent.

5 QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. Will Mike Shanahan feel some heat if the Broncos don't make the playoffs?

After the Broncos fired general manager Ted Sundquist, there's nobody left to blame for a run of bad seasons but Shanahan.

2. Does Al Davis have the patience to let Lane Kiffin coach and develop his young quarterback?

No. Kiffin barely made it through his first season without being fired. Another four- or five-win year will surely result in another coaching change in Oakland. Isn't Art Shell available?

3. What are the Chiefs thinking at quarterback?

They're sticking with Brodie Croyle, a third-round pick in 2006 who started six of the Chiefs' last seven games in 2007, and lost them all. The Chiefs owned six of the top 100 picks in the draft and didn't use a single one on a quarterback.

4. How long will the window to the Super Bowl be open for the Chargers?

Franchise running back LaDainian Tomlinson had to sit out the AFC championship game with a sprained knee. He is 29, entering his eighth NFL season and has more than 15,000 rushing yards in college and the NFL. The Chargers better win something soon.

5. What kind of rookie season do the Raiders need from running back Darren McFadden?

Something like Adrian Peterson gave to the Minnesota Vikings a year ago. About 1,400 yards and 12 touchdowns would help quarterback JaMarcus Russell a lot.

—Tony Grossi

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COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Steve Watson	Associate head coach	8	8
Jeremy Bates	Quarterbacks	7	3
Rick Dennison	Offensive coor./line	14	14
Bobby Turner	Running backs	14	14
Jedd Fisch	Receivers	8	1
Pat McPherson	Tight Ends	12	11
Joe Baker	Offensive assistant	13	2
Bob Slowik	Defensive coordinator	17	4
Bill Johnson	Defensive line	8	2
Jacob Burney	Defensive line	15	7
Jim Ryan	Linebackers	4	4
Ronnie Bradford	Secondary	6	6
Ryan Slowik	Asst. secondary	4	4
Charlie Jackson	Defensive assistant	3	2
Scott O'Brien	Special teams coor.	18	2
Keith Burns	Special teams asst.	2	2
Rich Tuten	Strength & Cond.	14	14
Greg Saporta	Strength & Cond.	14	14
Dwayne Chandler	Strength & Cond.	3	2

Shanahan Tries to Keep Losing from Becoming a Habit

In Mike Shanahan's first 12 seasons, he had only one losing season. His second losing season caused plenty of changes.

In the months that followed Denver's 7-9 season, Denver's top two assistant coaches and general manager departed. Defensive boss Jim Bates was offered a reassignment, but stepped down. Mike Heimerdinger, the top offensive assistant, left for a similar role with Tennessee. General manager Ted Sundquist was abruptly fired.

Owner Pat Bowlen has always supported Shanahan and said he will be the Broncos' coach as long as he wants, but the outside pressure to make a change would increase with another losing season.

Despite the staff changes, the roster wasn't blown up. The team was more fiscally responsible than in years past, passing on big-money free agents for more reasonably priced fixes at positions of need. Linebackers Boss Bailey and Niko Koutouvides should upgrade the linebacker position. Veteran safeties Marlon McCree and Marquand Manuel will provide depth. Receivers Keary Colbert, Samie Parker and Darrell Jackson will battle for a starting spot opposite Brandon Marshall.

The Broncos hope they can get back into playoff contention this year, but overtaking the Chargers in the AFC West will be a huge task.

COACHING

Shanahan took the blame for the Broncos' losing season, saying the team had 10-win talent. Realistically, the Broncos' talent level wasn't that high, although injuries played a part in that. Of course, Shanahan has final say on all personnel decisions so he deserves blame for any inadequacies on the roster.

The coaching staff will have a new look with Bob Slowik running the defense and Rick Dennison and Jeremy Bates guiding the offense. Dennison will control the running game while Bates, a young up-and-coming assistant, will head the passing game and help with quarterback Jay Cutler's development.

RATING: 8.5

QUARTERBACKS

Cutler is a building block for the franchise. He has a strong arm, good athletic ability and a strong understanding of NFL defenses. He needs improvement in some areas. He would like to cut out some turnovers and play better in the red zone, but that should come with experience. He has also shown signs of becoming a locker-room leader going into this third season. Patrick Ramsey is a solid veteran backup.

RATING: 7

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Niko Koutouvides

Koutouvides backed up Lofa Tatupu in Seattle, but he will have every chance to be Denver's middle linebacker. His addition will also allow D.J. Williams to slide back to weakside linebacker after he played the middle last season.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
LB Boss Bailey, WR Keary Colbert, WR Darrell Jackson, S Marquand Manuel, S Marlon McCree, WR Samie Parker, DT Dewayne Robertson, C Casey Wiegmann

KEY LOSS:
PK Jason Elam (16/0)*
Elam hit all 37 of his attempts inside 40 yards the past two years, and was great in the clutch. The Broncos let their all-time leading scorer leave in free agency, which wasn't a popular move in the locker room.

OTHER LOSSES:
TE Stephen Alexander (0/0), S Nick Ferguson (12/7), LB Ian Gold (14/14), LB Warrick Holdman (0/0), OT Matt Lepsis (16/16), C Chris Myers (16/16), FB Paul Smith (14/0), WR Javon Walker (8/5)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 9 offense, 9 defense, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

RUNNING BACKS

Travis Henry was signed to be a workhorse for the Broncos' running game but finished with only 691 yards. Knee, rib and ankle injuries slowed him, and he had little explosiveness over the last two months of the season. If he's healthy, he should get another chance to start.

Selvin Young benefited from Henry's injuries. He rushed for 729 yards, but the team doesn't see him as an every-down back. Young should continue to be a change-of-pace back in 2008. A darkhorse for carries is fifth-round pick Ryan Torain, who fits what the Broncos like at tailback.

RATING: 7

RECEIVERS

Marshall had 102 receptions in 2007, the third second-year receiver in NFL history to have a 100-catch season. However, a serious arm injury suffered in an off-season mishap could set Marshall back if he doesn't heal as the Broncos expect. Marshall said he fell through a television screen after wrestling with his brother on a family vacation, and suffered lacerations to an artery, vein, nerve, two tendons and three muscles. The Broncos have said they anticipate a full recovery.

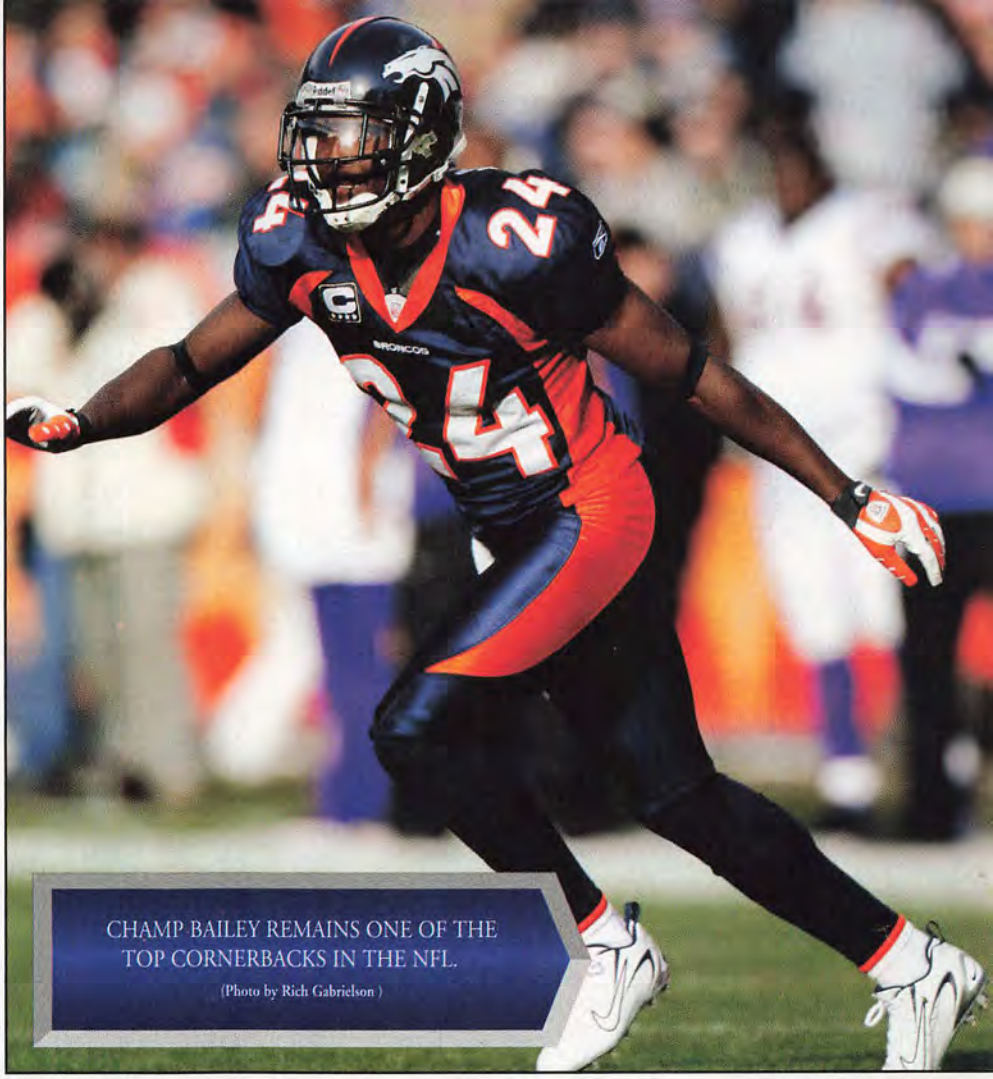
The starting spot opposite Marshall is unsettled. Colbert, Jackson and Parker, all former starters, will battle for the job. Brandon Stokley is one of the best slot receivers in the NFL, and the Broncos plan to keep him there all year.

Daniel Graham's blocking and Tony Scheffler's receiving provide a solid 1-2 punch at tight end for Denver.

RATING: 7

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Injuries and age have forced the team to rebuild the line. The latest hit came when left tackle Matt Lepsis retired. The Broncos reacted by drafting Boise State's Ryan Clady with the 12th pick. Clady is the team's left tackle of the future, and he should start from day one.



CHAMP BAILEY REMAINS ONE OF THE TOP CORNERBACKS IN THE NFL.

(Photo by Rich Gabrielson)

Ryan Harris, a 2007 third-round pick, and Chris Kuper, who started most of last season at left guard, were supposed to compete at left tackle. They will probably battle with incumbent starter Erik Pears for the right tackle job.

Center Tom Nalen (torn biceps) and guard Ben Hamilton (concussion) finished last season on injured reserve, but the Broncos think they will return at 100 percent this year. If not, the team signed longtime Chiefs center Casey Wiegmann and drafted Bowling Green interior lineman Kory Lichtensteiger to provide depth.

RATING: 6.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Broncos are depending on a cast of young ends, a former college star with a knee condition and a young tackle who has had off-field troubles.

Last year's first-round pick Jarvis Moss wasn't playing very well as a rookie, then he broke his fibula. Second-round pick Tim Crowder was slow to come around because of a high ankle sprain. The Broncos need both of them to take some pressure off third-year end Elvis Dumervil, who has established himself as a top pass rusher.

The tackle situation will be fine if Dewayne Robertson's knee holds up and Marcus Thomas stays clear of trouble. Thomas, who was kicked off Florida's team as a senior and was a major character gamble in the 2007 draft, was arrested on March 1 near his hometown in Jacksonville on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance. His representatives say he is innocent and the Broncos were tracking the legal process before making any decisions. Robertson failed a Broncos physical because of his knee, but Denver still traded for him because the former fourth overall pick in the draft has missed only three games in his career.

There are some veterans to add to the depth, including ends John Engelberger and Ebenezer Ekuban and tackle Alvin McKinley.

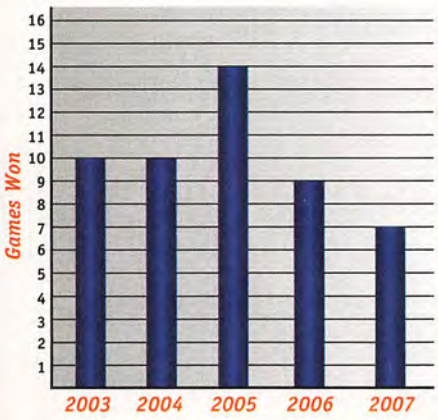
RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

The position needed an overhaul. D.J. Williams was out of position at middle linebacker last year. Outside linebackers Ian Gold and Nate Webster missed too many tackles. Williams was moved back to his natural weak-side position, Gold was released and Webster will probably be a backup.

Boss Bailey was signed to start on the strong side. Denver signed Koutouvides, a special teams standout with Seattle, to fill its hole at middle linebacker. The defense will get a huge boost if Williams plays the weak side like he did as a rookie, when he

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2004, 2005*

Broncos Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
13	***Colbert, Keary**	**6-1**	**200**	**5**	**Southern Cal**	**12/8**	**UFA,CARO 08**	**D2 CARO 04**	**Didn't do much in Carolina, but Denver likes his skills.**
89	**Graham, Daniel (TE)**	**6-3**	**257**	**7**	**Colorado**	**15/15**	**UFA,NE 07**	**D1 NE 02**	**A devastating blocker that wants a bigger role as a receiver.**
82	Jackson, Darrell	5-11	206	9	Florida	15/15	FA 08	D3 SEA 00	If his knees are healthy, he could be Denver's second receiver.
81	*Jackson, Nate (TE)	6-3	235	5	Menlo	5/1	FA 03	CFA SF 02	Long-time favorite of the coaches is coming off a groin injury.
19	Jacobs, Taylor	6-1	210	6	Florida	10/0	FA 07	D2 WSH 03	All the offseason additions probably won't benefit him.
15	**Marshall, Brandon**	**6-4**	**230**	**3**	**UCF**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 DEN 06**	**Needs to be healthy to show off his tremendous ability after the catch.**
17	Martinez, Glenn	6-1	190	2	Saginaw Valley State	12/1	FA 07	CFA PITT 04	Denver drafted a punt returner, which is probably bad news for him.
85	Mustard, Chad (TE)	6-6	277	5	North Dakota	12/2	FA 06	CFA CLV 02	A good blocker who knows the playbook well and has provided depth.
12	Parker, Samie	5-11	190	5	Oregon	15/7	UFA,KC 08	D4 KC 04	A one-time starter in Kansas City, he could start again with a great camp.
82	Pierce, Brett (TE)	6-5	263	4	Stanford	0/0	FA 08	CFA BLT 04	Former Stanford product has two NFL catches.
	Royal, Eddie (KR)	5-10	181	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D2 08	D2 DEN 08	Was drafted to be a returner, but the Broncos like his receiver potential.
	Russell, Cliff	5-11	195	6	Utah	0/0	FA 08	D3 WSH 02	Denver is fourth team since his NFL debut in 2003.
88	Scheffler, Tony (TE)	6-5	250	2	Western Michigan	16/7	D2 06	D2 DEN 06	After two up-and-down seasons, should be ready for a big breakthrough.
	Shepherd, Edell	6-1	175	4	San Jose State	0/0	FA 08	CFA CHI 02	Knows the offensive scheme a bit after spending 2006 with Houston.
14	Stokley, Brandon	5-11	192	10	Southwestern Louisiana	13/9	FA 07	D4 BLT 99	Was surprisingly fast and productive after a 2006 Achilles' tendon injury.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
69	Alexander, P.J. (G)	6-4	297	5	Syracuse	11/0	FA 07	CFA NO 02	Versatile, knows the system and could provide depth in the interior.
	Clady, Ryan (T)	**6-6**	**317**	**R**	**Boise State**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 DEN 08**	**Instant starter at left tackle, should stay there for years.**
50	***Hamilton, Ben (G/C)**	**6-4**	**290**	**8**	**Minnesota**	**0/0**	**D4 01**	**D4 DEN 01**	**Needs to show he is fully recovered from concussion symptoms.**
74	**Harris, Ryan (T)**	**6-5**	**300**	**2**	**Notre Dame**	**11/0**	**D3 07**	**D3 DEN 07**	**Back problems bothered him as a rookie, could end up at right tackle.**
70	**Holland, Montrae (G)**	**6-2**	**322**	**6**	**Florida State**	**16/16**	**UFA,NO 07**	**D4 NO 03**	**A modest freeagent signing in 2007; was a pleasant surprise.**
73	Kuper, Chris (G)	6-4	302	3	North Dakota	16/11	D5 06	D5 DEN 06	Athletic player came on strong late last season at guard.
	Lichtensteiger, Kory (C)	6-3	300	R	Bowling Green	0/0	D4 08	D4 DEN 08	Will start out at center, but can also play guard.
66	***Nalen, Tom (C)**	**6-3**	**286**	**15**	**Boston College**	**5/5**	**D7 94**	**D7 DEN 94**	**Broncos hope longtime veteran still has a year or two left.**
64	Pears, Erik (T)	6-8	305	3	Colorado State	16/16	FA 06	CFA DEN 05	Has started at right and left tackle; will have to fight to start this year.
72	Snell, Isaac (G)	6-6	288	2	North Dakota State	0/0	FA 07	CFA NYJ 05	Can provide some depth at guard.
62	Wiegmann, Casey (C)	6-2	285	13	Iowa	16/16	UFA,KC 08	CFA IND 96	Veteran is insurance in case Nalen or Hamilton aren't healthy.
RUNNING BACKS									
30	Bell, Mike	6-0	225	3	Arizona	5/0	CFA 06	CFA DEN 06	Fell way out of favor after a surprising rookie season in 2006.
23	Hall, Andre	5-10	212	2	South Florida	10/1	FA 07	CFA TB 06	Impressed last year in limited duty as a tailback and returner.
20	**Henry, Travis**	**5-9**	**230**	**8**	**Tennessee**	**12/7**	**FA 07**	**D2 BUFF 01**	**If he can stay healthy and out of trouble, he could carry the load.**
	Hillis, Peyton (FB)	6-2	243	R	Arkansas	0/0	D7 08	D7 DEN 08	Was a versatile college player; will be a fullback in Denver.
37	**Sapp, Cecil**	**5-11**	**229**	**6**	**Colorado State**	**16/8**	**FA 04**	**CFA DEN 03**	**A do-everything player who has versatile talent at fullback.**
	Torain, Ryan	6-1	222	R	Arizona State	0/0	D5 08	D5 DEN 08	Could be the big back Denver wants if his foot is OK.
35	Young, Selvin	5-11	207	2	Texas	15/8	CFA 07	CFA DEN 07	Impressed the coaches right away with his maturity.
QUARTERBACKS									
6	**Cutler, Jay**	**6-3**	**233**	**3**	**Vanderbilt**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 DEN 06**	**Has 29 touchdowns and 4,498 yards in 21 career starts.**
8	Finnerty, Cullen	6-2	223	1	Grand Valley State	0/0	FA 08	CFA BLT 07	Good small college resume; could stick on the roster.
4	Hackney, Darrell	6-0	248	2	UAB	0/0	FA 07	CFA CLV 06	Impressed the team with a good camp in 2007.
11	Ramsey, Patrick	6-2	225	7	Tulane	2/0	FA 07	D1 WSH 02	Didn't get much playing time in 2007 because Cutler started all 16.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
77	Birdine, Larry (E)	6-4	265	2	Oklahoma	0/0	FA 07	CFA GB 07	Signed off Tennessee's practice squad last year, will get a look.
90	Carrington, Paul (E)	6-7	250	3	UCF	0/0	FA 07	CFA ATL 06	Tall end played 15 games with Atlanta two seasons ago.
78	Clemons, Nic (E)	6-6	278	2	Georgia	0/0	FA 08	CFA WSH 03	Played eight games with the Redskins in 2005.
96	Crowder, Tim (E)	6-4	275	2	Texas	13/1	D2 07	D2 DEN 07	Can play against the run and rush the passer; has a good future.
92	**Dumervil, Elvis (E)**	**5-11**	**260**	**3**	**Louisville**	**16/16**	**D4 06**	**D4 DEN 06**	**21 sacks in 29 games; has Pro Bowl hopes this season.**
91	*Ekuban, Ebenezer (E)	6-4	275	10	North Carolina	0/0	T,CLV 05	D1 DALL 99	His season-ending Achilles' tendon injury hurt the defense last year.
60	**Engelberger, John (E)**	**6-4**	**260**	**9**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/15**	**T,SF 06**	**D2 SF 00**	**The Broncos like his ability against the run.**
68	Harris, Steven (T)	6-5	305	1	Florida	4/0	FA 07	CFA DEN 07	Undrafted rookie got an audition late last year and was solid.
75	Jenkins, Julian	6-3	277	2	Stanford	0/0	FA 08	D5 TB 06	Had nine tackles in 12 games for Tampa Bay in 2006.
98	Mallard, Josh (T)	6-2	259	4	Georgia	11/0	FA 07	D7 IND 02	Came out of nowhere in midseason to provide a good interior pass rush.
99	McKinley, Alvin (T)	6-3	294	9	Mississippi State	15/10	UFA,CLV 07	D4 CARO 00	Veteran who can play end, but settled in at tackle for Denver last year.
94	*Moss, Jarvis (E)	6-6	265	2	Florida	6/1	D1 07	D1 DEN 07	2007 first-round pick says he is fully recovered from a broken fibula.
97	Peterson, Kenny (E)	6-3	285	6	Ohio State	7/0	FA 07	D3 GB 03	Was released, re-signed and then played well in a late-season stint.
	Powell, Carlton (T)	6-2	301	R	Virginia Tech	0/0	D5 08	D5 DEN 08	Denver drafted him in the fifth round because of his run-stopping ability.
63	**Robertson, Dewayne (NT)**	**6-1**	**310**	**6**	**Kentucky**	**16/15**	**T,NYJ 08**	**D1 NYJ 03**	**The Broncos like taking chances on former first-round picks.**
79	**Thomas, Marcus (T)**	**6-3**	**315**	**2**	**Florida**	**16/5**	**D4 07**	**D4 DEN 07**	**An offseason arrest was surprising after he had a good rookie year.**
LINEBACKERS									
	Archer, Brandon (M)	6-0	239	2	Kansas State	6/0	W,IND 08	CFA IND 07	Was a special-teams contributor for the Colts last year.
	Bailey, Boss (O)	**6-3**	**235**	**6**	**Georgia**	**15/12**	**UFA,DET 08**	**D2 DET 03**	**Slides right in on the strong side and will be an improvement.**
57	Beck, Jordan (M)	6-2	233	4	Cal Poly-SLO	11/0	FA 07	D3 ATL 05	Was perhaps Denver's best special teams coverage player in 2007.
53	Green, Louis	6-3	237	5	Alcorn State	16/0	FA 04	CFA BLT 02	Has found a role on the team on special teams and as a backup.
	Koutouvides, Niko (M)	**6-2**	**238**	**5**	**Purdue**	**15/0**	**UFA,SEA 08**	**D4 SEA 04**	**Has the ability to become a good middle linebacker in Denver.**
	Larsen, Spencer	6-2	242	R	Arizona	0/0	D6 08	D6 DEN 08	Versatile player who could be shifted to fullback in the future.
58	Webster, Nate (M)	6-0	232	9	Miami	16/13	UFA,CIN06	D3 TB 00	Will probably return to a backup role if he makes the roster.
55	**Williams, D.J. (O)**	**6-1**	**242**	**5**	**Miami**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 DEN 04**	**Piled up a lot of tackles in the middle, but never looked comfortable.**
51	Winborn, Jamie (O)	5-11	242	7	Vanderbilt	14/2	FA 07	D2 SF 01	Will be tough to keep off the field after he played so well last year.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	**Abdullah, Hamza (S)**	**6-2**	**216**	**4**	**Washington State**	**11/8**	**FA 05**	**D7 TB 05**	**Has good range against the pass; needs to be a surer tackler.**
24	**Bailey, Champ (CB)**	**6-0**	**192**	**10**	**Georgia**	**15/15**	**T,WSH 04**	**D1 WSH 99**	**Interceptions dropped from 10 to three last year.**
	Barrett, Josh (S)	6-3	231	R	Arizona State	0/0	D7 08	D7 DEN 08	Has a great size-speed combo; could play special teams right away.
32	**Bly, Dre' (CB)**	**5-10**	**188**	**10**	**North Carolina**	**16/16**	**T,DET 07**	**D2 STL 99**	**Turned 31, but still has the ability and guile to be effective.**
22	Foxworth, Domonique (CB)	5-11	180	4	Maryland	14/6	D3 05	D3 DEN 05	Has bounced between cornerback and safety; is better off at corner.
47	**Lynch, John (S)**	**6-2**	**220**	**16**	**Stanford**	**13/12**	**FA 04**	**D3 TB 93**	**Came back for one more season, but his role might not be a full-time one.**
33	Manuel, Marquand (S)	6-0	209	7	Florida	16/2	UFA,CARO 08	D6 CIN 02	Has bounced around with many teams, but could fight for a starting job.
28	McCree, Marlon (S)	5-11	202	8	Kentucky	16/16	FA 08	D7 JAX 01	Long-time veteran will provide depth at a once thin position.
25	Morton, Christian (CB)	6-0	190	2	Illinois	0/0	FA 08	D7 NE 04	Has played with three NFL teams since 2004.
41	Paymah, Karl (CB)	6-0	195	4	Washington State	15/3	D3 05	D3 DEN 05	A former third-round pick; played up to his ability late last season.
40	*Reid, Lamont (CB)	5-11	195	2	North Carolina State	0/0	FA 07	CFA ARIZ 05	Was out last year with an injury suffered in NFL Europa.
43	Rogers, Roderick (S)	6-2	187	1	Wisconsin	2/0	FA 07	CFA DEN 07	Good athlete who had a chance to play special teams late last year.
31	Underwood, Marviel (S)	5-10	200	3	San Diego State	0/0	FA 08	D4 GB 05	Former fourth-round pick of the Packers is at a crowded position.
34	Vaughn, Vickiel (S)	6-0	204	2	Arkansas	0/0	FA 08	D7 SF 06	Former seventh-round pick hasn't appeared in a NFL game.
	Williams, Jack (CB)	5-9	181	R	Kent State	0/0	D4 08	D4 DEN 08	Injuries as a senior hurt his draft stock; slipped to the fourth round.
SPECIALISTS									
9	Baugher, Danny (P)	5-10	194	1	Arizona	0/0	FA 08	CFA CIN 06	Couldn't stick with New England or Cincinnati; gets a chance in Denver.
83	Leach, Mike (LS/TE)	6-2	240	9	William & Mary	16/0	FA 04	CFA TENN 00	Warmed up as the emergency quarterback during a game at Detroit last year.
2	Paulescu, Sam (P)	6-0	189	1	Oregon State	1/0	FA 07	FA DALL 07	Averaged 44.2 yards in his only game with Denver, the 2007 finale.
5	Prater, Matt (K)	5-10	180	1	Central Florida	4/0	FA 07	CFA DET 06	Has a big leg and if he wins a roster spot he's likely to handle kickoffs too.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Marquay McDaniel (1, Hampton), Lorne Sam (Texas-El Paso); OT Tyler Polumbus (Colorado); OG Mitch Erickson (South Dakota State); RB Anthony Alridge (Houston); LB Wesley Woodyard (Kentucky); PK Garrett Hartley (Oklahoma); P Brett Kern (Toledo).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Wide receiver Brandon Marshall is a budding superstar, but he is frustrating the team with his off-field issues. This off-season, he suffered a strange arm injury and quarterback Jay Cutler called him out, saying he needed to quit putting himself in bad situations.
2. The Broncos need to play well early in the season. Four of their first six games are at home, and before the bye week they have games against Tampa Bay, Jacksonville and New England, all 2007 playoff teams. The schedule should get easier after the bye.
3. Late last season, the Broncos' run defense showed some signs of improving. There were still a few poor performances late, but nothing like the early-season debacles. With some additions to the front seven, Denver should be competent against the run this year.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Travis Henry

Through the first month of the 2007 season, the Broncos thought they had their workhorse tailback and Travis Henry figured he had a home.

Henry led the NFL in rushing after four weeks. The rest of his season was a nightmare. Multiple injuries affected him on the field, and an off-field battle with the NFL over a positive drug test hovered over him. He didn't have a 100-yard game after September.

Henry took a pay cut to come back for another season in Denver, after coach Mike Shanahan made it clear that he wasn't guaranteed to return.

"There's a lot to weigh on who's out there and what his status is physically," Shanahan said after the season.

The Broncos considered drafting a tailback with the 12th overall pick and passed, but that wasn't a vote of confidence for Henry. Henry will likely share time with Selvin Young and possibly rookie Ryan Torain this season. Late last season, after he won his appeal against the NFL, Henry said his first year in Denver was difficult.

"Expectations were high for me," Henry said. "I made them high for myself, as well. It's been tough, but you can't do nothing."

finished third in the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year voting. He hasn't played on the weak side full time since his rookie year, which was 2004.

RATING: 6

SECONDARY

Cornerback Champ Bailey is still the top cornerback in the NFL, but he did not have his usual great year in 2007. He is the least of Denver's problems and should bounce back. In Dre Bly's first Broncos season he had some good moments, but gave up some big plays, like an 82-yard touchdown on the first play of overtime against Green Bay. Domonique Foxworth, Karl Paymah and rookie Jack Williams provide competent depth.

Safety is unsettled. John Lynch considered retiring, but decided to play again, then worked out a new contract to come back with the Broncos. Lynch, Hamza Abdullah and veteran additions McCree and Manuel will fight for starting spots. Abdullah has good range but isn't a consistent tackler. He has the most long-term potential among the safeties.

RATING: 8.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Broncos let longtime kicker Jason Elam go to Atlanta in free agency over a $1.5 million disagreement on guaranteed money. Denver won seven games last year, and Elam kicked a game-winning field goal on the final play four times. Matt Prater is one of four on field-goal attempts in his career and would have a lot of pressure if he is tabbed to replace Elam. Garrett Hartley, a rookie kicker from Oklahoma, was signed to provide some competition.

The punting situation is shaky as well. Todd Sauerbrun was cut late last season, and Paul Ernster was too after one disastrous game. Sam Paulescu punted in the final game and could be Denver's punter this year. Danny Baugher, who has spent time with New England and Cincinnati, was signed. There's one game of NFL regular-season experience between Paulescu, Baugher and undrafted signee Brett Kern from Toledo.

The good news for the Broncos' special teams is the team drafted Virginia Tech wide receiver Eddie Royal in the second round to become their kickoff and punt returner. Also, Mike Leach is one of the league's most reliable long snappers.

RATING: 5.5

INTANGIBLES

Denver isn't used to losing seasons. Shanahan's first with the Broncos was 1999, and his second was last year. The Broncos looked overwhelmed by San Diego last year — they were outscored 64-6 by the division champion Chargers — and there wasn't a major infusion of talent. Some things were fixed, but the Broncos need some internal improvements to compete for the division.

RATING: Minus 1

—Frank Schwab

2007 RESULTS

Record: 7-9

Sep. 9	at Buffalo	15-14
Sep. 16	OAKLAND (OT)	23-20
Sep. 23	JACKSONVILLE	14-23
Sep. 30	at Indianapolis	20-38
Oct. 7	SAN DIEGO	3-41
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	PITTSBURGH	31-28
Oct. 29	GREEN BAY (Mon.) (OT)	13-19
Nov. 4	at Detroit	7-44
Nov. 11	at Kansas City	27-11
Nov. 19	TENNESSEE (Mon.)	34-20
Nov. 25	at Chicago (OT)	34-37
Dec. 2	at Oakland	20-34
Dec. 9	KANSAS CITY	41- 7
Dec. 13	at Houston (Thu.)	13-31
Dec. 24	at San Diego (Mon.)	3-23
Dec. 30	MINNESOTA (OT)	22-19

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	at Houston (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 16	DALLAS (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 22	GREEN BAY (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 29	at Arizona (Fri.)	7:00
Sep. 8	at Oakland (Mon)	7:15
Sep. 14	SAN DIEGO	2:15
Sep. 21	NEW ORLEANS	2:05
Sep. 28	at Kansas City	12:00
Oct. 5	TAMPA BAY	2:05
Oct. 12	JACKSONVILLE	2:05
Oct. 20	at New England (Mon.)	8:30
Oct. 26	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 2	MIAMI	2:05
Nov. 6	at Cleveland (Thu.)	8:15
Nov. 16	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov. 23	OAKLAND	2:05
Nov. 30	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Dec. 7	KANSAS CITY	2:05
Dec. 14	at Carolina	1:00
Dec. 21	BUFFALO	2:05
Dec. 28	at San Diego	1:15

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

2007 RECORD: 4-12 | STADIUM: Arrowhead Stadium, 79,451, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 4th

AFC WEST

www.kcchiefs.com

AT A GLANCE

One Arrowhead Drive
Kansas City, MO 64129
(816) 920-9300

TRAINING CAMP:
University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, WI

COACH:
Herman Edwards, 3rd year with Chiefs (13-20), 8th year as NFL head coach (54-64)

PRESIDENT:
Carl Peterson

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/COO:
Dennis Thum

VICE PRESIDENT PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Bill Kuharich

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
Chuck Cook

DIRECTOR PRO PERSONNEL:
Ray Farmer

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Chan Gailey	Offensive coordinator	15	1
Bob Bicknell	Offensive line	2	2
Joe DíAlessandris	Assistant line	1	1
Dick Curl	Quarterbacks	6	3
Curtis Modkins	Running backs	1	1
Eric Price	Receivers	1	1
Jon Embree	Tight ends	3	3
Kevin Patullo	Off. quality control	2	2
Gunther Cunningham	Defensive coordinator/LBs	27	11
Tim Krumrie	Defensive line	14	3
David Gibbs	Secondary	7	3
Mike Ketchum	Defensive assistant/LB	3	3
Mike Priefer	Special teams	7	3
Cedric Smith	Strength & Cond.	8	2
Brent Salazar	Strength & Cond.	2	2

Many Growing Pains Likely in Kansas City This Season

For those who didn't already figure it out in 2007 — as if losing the final nine games of a 4-12 season wasn't clue enough — the Chiefs have finally acknowledged that they are in full rebuilding mode. Moreover, they've decided that the reconstruction will take place almost exclusively through the draft as opposed to free agency.

That became painfully obvious in the 2008 off-season. Lightly regarded Atlanta linebacker Demorrio Williams became their "big-name" addition.

The Chiefs then traded disgruntled Pro Bowl franchise player Jared Allen — the NFL sack leader and the fan-favorite face of the improving defense — to Minnesota for three draft picks, including the Vikings' No. 17 pick and two third-rounders.

With three picks in the first 32 selections, the Chiefs did what it needed to do in acquiring potential difference makers in Louisiana State defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey, Virginia offensive lineman Branden Albert and Virginia Tech cornerback Brandon Flowers. Those players likely will be starters in '08 and possible stars in a few years.

But, was their addition — coupled with the scant addition of veteran talent and the anticipated improvement of several young players already on hand — enough to help coach Herm Edwards improve last year's unsightly record, the worst in Kansas City since 1988? Not very likely.

COACHING

Going nowhere with an offense that was dead last in scoring and rushing and next-to-last in total yards, Edwards cleared out much of his offensive staff. Former Dallas Cowboys and Georgia Tech head coach Chan Gailey will replace the vanquished Mike Solari as offensive coordinator, which means the Chiefs will at least have someone who's done the job previously. But, several of Gailey's assistants remain relatively new to the league. Defensive coordinator Gunther Cunningham and most of the staff that directed the league's 13th-ranked defense returns intact, and Cunningham now will also coach the linebackers. Edwards has the patience necessary to coach a young, rebuilding team, and he'll do so with the blessing of new board chairman Clark Hunt. But if the Chiefs don't show some signs of improvement, he may not be around long enough to see this house get completely rebuilt.

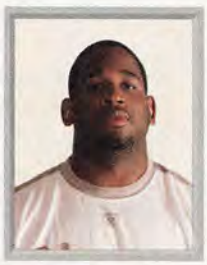
RATING: 7.5

QUARTERBACKS

Despite going winless in his six starts and one extensive relief appearance and amassing only a 69.9 passer rating, third-year player Brodie Croyle's job as the starter remained intact when the Chiefs did not draft another quarterback. The Chiefs know Croyle wasn't playing with the strongest

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
OL Branden Albert



Though not drafted as high as Glenn Dorsey, the 15th player taken overall simply has to fill a hole at either guard or tackle immediately.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
OT Anthony Alabi, WR Devard Darling, PR/KR B.J. Sams, C Wade Smith, OLB Demorrio Williams

KEY LOSS:
DE Jared Allen (14/14)*
Allen had 15.5 sacks last season and if Dorsey or any returning defensive linemen don't generate some pass rush, Kansas City's secondary is in deep trouble.

OTHER LOSSES:
LB Kendrell Bell (11/0), OG Chris Bober (0/0), K John Carney (5/0), WR/KR Eddie Drummond (12/0), TE Jason Dunn (16/3), LB Keyaron Fox (10/0), FB Boomer Grigsby (13/1), WR Eddie Kennison (8/8), CB Ty Law (16/16), WR Samie Parker (15/7), DT James Reed (4/0), CB Benny Sapp (14/2), OG John Welbourn (16/16), C Casey Wiegmann (16/16), FB/TE Kris Wilson (16/12)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
16; 7 offense, 9 defense, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

supporting cast — Larry Johnson wasn't available for any of his six starts, for instance — so he wasn't given the fairest shot to showcase his potential last year. But his offensive teammates may not be much better this year, either. Damon Huard remained on the roster all spring as a proven backup — he was 4-6 as a starter last year. Untested youngster Tyler Thigpen will be the No. 3 man.

RATING: 6

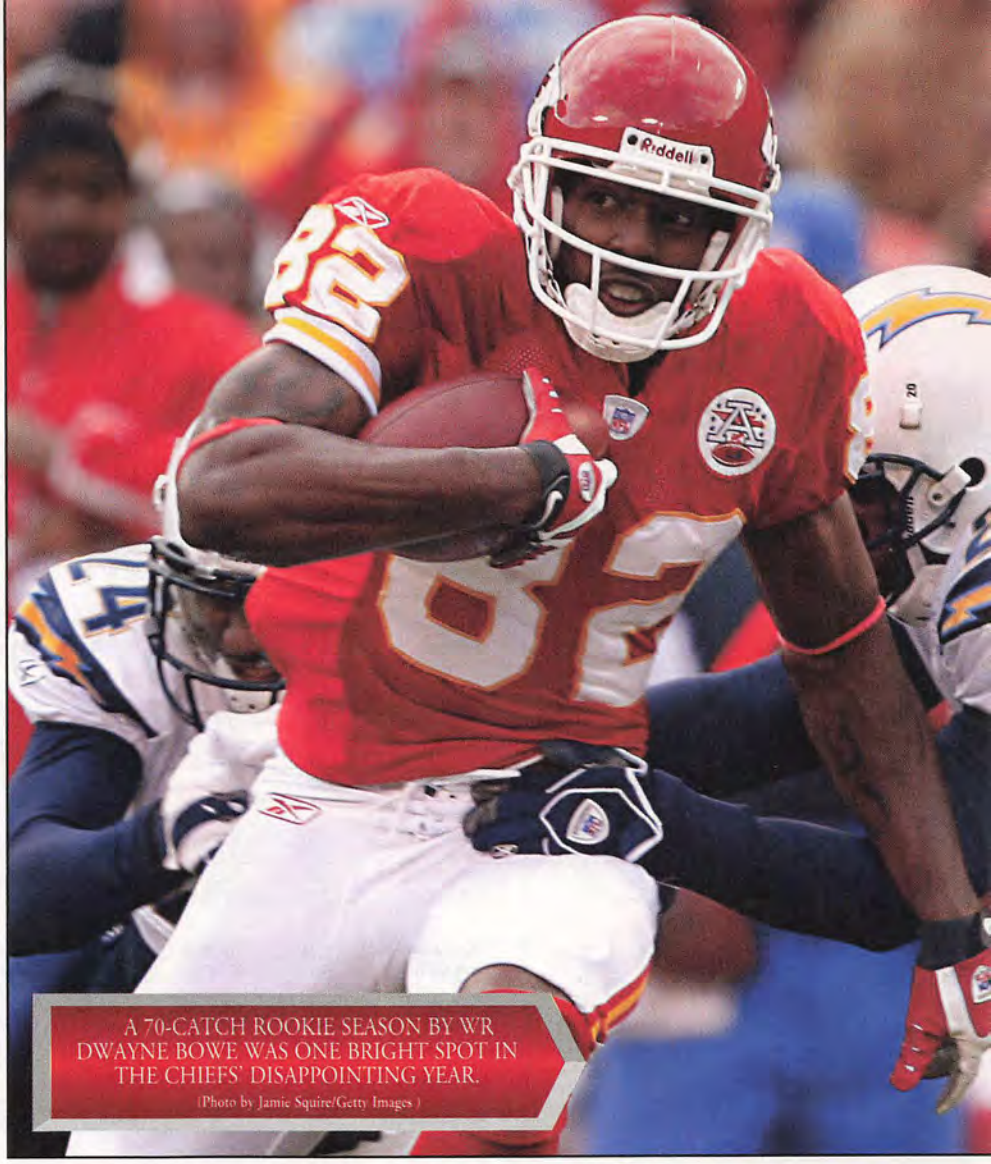
RUNNING BACKS

Once one of the league's most respected running units as recently as 2006, the Chiefs topped the 100-yard rushing mark only four times in 2007. Larry Johnson's foot fracture — a bad break the Chiefs never would acknowledge — kept him out of eight games, and Priest Holmes' return from a 2 1/2-year injury-related absence lasted only two starts before he took another blow to the head and retired. The Chiefs limped to the finish line with rookies Kolby Smith and Jackie Battle running nowhere behind a makeshift offensive line. The Chiefs say Johnson should make a full recovery, but how effective will he be? He was still limited in early spring drills. Rookie speedster Jamaal Charles was drafted to add some big-play punch.

RATING: 8

RECEIVERS

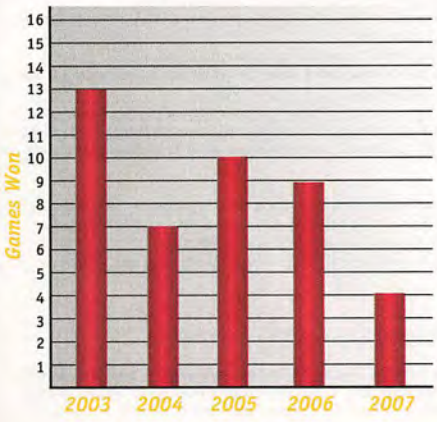
Tight end Tony Gonzalez once again was the Chiefs' top receiver with a 99-catch season — second-most in a distinguished career that saw him pass Shannon Sharpe for most career receptions by a tight end (820). That Gonzalez was still that productive at age 31 speaks well of his longevity, and poorly of the rest of the Chiefs' receiving corps. Rookie Dwayne Bowe took some heat off Gonzalez with a first-season effort that saw him lead all NFL rookies in receptions with 70, but there is little behind him and Gonzalez. Unproven Jeff Webb (28 catches) went into spring as the No. 2 receiver following the departure of veteran Eddie Kennison.



A 70-CATCH ROOKIE SEASON BY WR DWAYNE BOWE WAS ONE BRIGHT SPOT IN THE CHIEFS' DISAPPOINTING YEAR.

(Photo by Jamie Squire/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2003, 2006*

The Chiefs added lightly used free agent Devard Darling, then spent a fourth-round draft pick on Missouri wideout Will Franklin.

RATING: 7.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

It's almost hard to remember just how good this unit was as recently as 2005 when Willie Roaf and Will Shields were still playing, and Brian Waters was a Pro Bowl guard. One of the best units in football is now a shell of itself with three positions, center to right tackle, needing to be filled. Waters and veteran left tackle Damion McIntosh are the only proven players. First-round draftee Branden Albert will be given a chance to start at left tackle. If he seems ready for the challenge, McIntosh can move to right guard. If he needs more time, Albert most likely can play guard. Unproven youngster Rudy Niswanger will compete with former Miami tackle Wade Smith at center. Former Jet Adrian Jones leads the right tackle candidates, with youngsters Will Svitek and Herb Taylor also in the mix. Backup depth is thinner than thin.

RATING: 5.5

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Trading the unhappy Allen cost the Chiefs their only established star on defense and his league-high 15.5 sacks of a year ago. The Chiefs did draft a nice addition in Glenn Dorsey when the most decorated defensive lineman in college football slipped to them at No. 5. Dorsey, a proven two-gap defender, should become an immediate starter and might even quickly improve the league's 28th-ranked rushing defense. He also gives Cunningham the option of moving tackle Alfonso Boone to left end and Tamba Hali (15.5 sacks in two seasons) to Allen's right-end spot. If 2007 draftees Turk McBride and Tank Tyler can step up in their second season, and Dorsey plays like he did for Louisiana State's national champion, this unit could become respectable.

RATING: 6.5

LINEBACKERS

This potentially decent unit faded midway through 2007 as the Chiefs began their decline to an eventual nine-game losing streak. Kansas City gave up more than 190 rushing yards in three of those losses, and more than 140 yards in seven

Chiefs Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
81	Allan, Michael (TE)	6-6	254	1	Whitworth	0/0	D7 07	D7 KC 07	Late-round draft pick showed flashes in first training camp.
82	**Bowe, Dwayne**	**6-2**	**221**	**2**	**Louisiana State**	**16/15**	**D1 07**	**D1 KC 07**	**Rookie sensation showed remarkable ability to make tough catches in tight quarters.**
87	Cottam, Brad (TE)	6-7	269	R	Tennessee	0/0	D3 08	D3 KC 08	Blocking specialist has a spot here on a team that needs a blocker for two-tight formations.
89	Darling, Devard	6-1	213	5	Washington State	16/1	UFA,BLT 08	D3 BLT 04	Lightly used player caught 20 passes in 30 career games at Baltimore.
84	Foschi, John Paul (TE)	6-3	266	2	Georgia Tech	0/0	FA 08	CFA NYJ 04	Former Raiders fullback will work initially at college tight end position.
85	Franklin, Will	6-0	209	R	Missouri	0/0	D4 08	D4 KC 08	Likely will get a roster spot on a team with a dearth of receiver numbers.
88	**Gonzalez, Tony (TE)**	**6-5**	**251**	**12**	**California**	**16/16**	**D1 97**	**D1 KC 97**	**Still grabbing anything close and commanding double teams at age 32.**
45	Merritt, Michael (TE)	6-4	263	R	UCF	0/0	D7 08	D7 KC 08	Blocking specialist gets a shot for a team needing one.
17	*Price, Maurice	6-1	197	2	Charleston Southern	0/0	CFA 07	CFA KC 07	Career receptions leader in Big South Conference.
14	Robinson, Kevin (KR)	5-11	196	R	Utah State	0/0	D6 08	D6 KC 08	Eight kick return touchowns as collegian gives him shot on team without proven returner.
83	Sippio, Bobby	6-3	214	3	Western Kentucky	9/0	FA 07	CFA MIA 04	Arena League star still struggling to get on game-day active roster.
80	**Webb, Jeff**	**6-2**	**211**	**3**	**San Diego State**	**16/2**	**D6 06**	**D6 KC 06**	**Must fight off competition to seal starting job that is his to lose.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
79	Alabi, Anthony (T)	6-5	315	4	Texas Christian	10/0	W,MIA 08	D5 MIA 05	Played both tackle and guard in 15 games over three seasons in Miami.
76	**Albert, Branden (T)**	**6-5**	**316**	**R**	**Virginia**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 KC 08**	**Technically solid guard has fundamentals to suggest he can be a left tackle in short time.**
73	**Jones, Adrian (T)**	**6-4**	**296**	**5**	**Kansas**	**7/0**	**W,NYJ 07**	**D4 NYJ 04**	**Starter in 16 of 44 games with Jets will contend for starting right tackle spot.**
60	Leffew, Travis (G)	6-4	292	1	Louisville	0/0	FA 07	CFA CHI 06	Spent time on practice squads at Atlanta, Green Bay and Dallas.
77	**McIntosh, Damion (T/G)**	**6-4**	**320**	**9**	**Kansas State**	**15/15**	**UFA,MIA 07**	**D3 SD 00**	**Showing signs of wear and tear at age 31 and could be right guard if Albert hits.**
64	***Niswanger, Rudy (C)**	**6-5**	**301**	**3**	**Louisiana State**	**12/0**	**CFA 06**	**CFA KC 06**	**Starting center candidate was seeing more time when knee injury ended '08 season.**
67	Richardson, Barry (T)	6-6	319	R	Clemson	0/0	D6 08	D6 KC 08	Massive drive blocker can win a reserve spot here with good summer effort.
74	Smith, Wade (C)	6-4	296	6	Memphis	14/0	UFA,NYJ 08	D3 MIA 03	Former tackle with Miami has starting chance here if he can convert to center.
61	Stallings, Tre'	6-3	315	2	Mississippi	1/0	FA 07	D6 KC 06	Backup guard must improve to retain job as reserve.
71	Svitek, Will (T)	6-6	300	4	Stanford	13/4	D6 05	D6 KC 05	Got some starts last season, and is among many competing for tackle jobs.
65	Taylor, Herb (G/T)	6-3	295	2	Texas Christian	2/0	D6 07	D6 KC 07	'07 draftee will get a shot at vacant right tackle position.
54	**Waters, Brian (G)**	**6-3**	**320**	**9**	**North Texas**	**16/16**	**FA 00**	**CFA DALL 99**	**Had string of three straight Pro Bowl appearances snapped last year as offense declined.**
RUNNING BACKS									
26	Battle, Jackie	6-2	238	1	Houston	3/0	FA 07	CFA DALL 07	Averaged only 3.4 yards a carry when seeing action in three games as rookie.
29	Charles, Jamaal	5-11	199	R	Texas	0/0	D3 08	D3 KC 08	Former Big 12 100-meters champ provides speed element to KC's power running game.
46	Hoyte, Oliver (FB)	6-3	252	3	North Carolina State	10/8	W,DALL 08	CFA DALL 06	Blocking fullback three seasons at Dallas has chance to fill a hole here.
27	***Johnson, Larry**	**6-1**	**230**	**6**	**Penn State**	**8/8**	**D1 03**	**D1 KC 03**	**Was struggling behind bad offensive line even before season-ending injury.**
21	**Smith, Kolby**	**5-11**	**219**	**2**	**Louisville**	**16/6**	**D5 07**	**D5 KC 07**	**Rookie backup made quick splash with 31-150 game in first start vs. Oakland.**
QUARTERBACKS									
12	**Croyle, Brodie**	**6-2**	**206**	**3**	**Alabama**	**9/6**	**D3 06**	**D3 KC 06**	**Battled hand and back injuries during winless six starts when he had little time to throw.**
8	Greene, David	6-3	226	3	Georgia	0/0	FA 07	D3 SEA 05	Practice squad player will compete for No. 3 job.
11	Huard, Damon	6-3	218	12	Washington	11/10	FA 04	CFA CIN 96	Experienced backup was sacked 36 times in 10 starts with 11-to-13 TD-to-interception ratio.
4	*Thigpen, Tyler	6-1	224	2	Coastal Carolina	1/0	W,MINN 07	D7 MINN 07	Will be No. 3 guy unless Chiefs do something foolish like dropping Huard.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
70	**Boone, Alfonso (E)**	**6-3**	**305**	**8**	**Mt. San Antonio JC**	**15/15**	**UFA,CHI 07**	**D7 DET 00**	**Could move to left end after recording only 31 tackles at tackle in first Chiefs season.**
72	**Dorsey, Glenn (T)**	**6-1**	**297**	**R**	**Louisiana State**	**0/0**	**D1 08**	**D1 KC 08**	**Proven two-gap defender may get more freedom to rush passer than he did at Louisiana State.**
95	Edwards, Ron (T)	6-3	315	8	Texas A&M	16/15	UFA,BUFF 06	D3 BUFF 01	Two-year starter likely will lose starting spot with arrival of rookie Dorsey.
91	**Hali, Tamba (E)**	**6-3**	**275**	**3**	**Penn State**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 KC 06**	**Pass rusher will get chance to attack quarterback's blind side at Jared Allen's vacant right end spot.**
99	Jackson, T.J. (NT)	6-0	304	2	Auburn	0/0	FA 08	CFA ATL 06	Spent 2007 on practice squad after appearing in five games with Atlanta.
97	Johnston, Brian (E)	6-4	269	R	Gardner-Webb	0/0	D7 08	D7 KC 08	Small-college defensive playmaker may be competing for practice squad spot.
90	McBride, Turk (E)	6-2	278	2	Tennessee	16/1	D2 07	D2 KC 07	High-round '07 draftee didn't develop into Allen's end replacement, will move inside.
93	**Tyler, Tank (T)**	**6-2**	**306**	**2**	**North Carolina State**	**15/1**	**D3 07**	**D3 KC 07**	**Showed brief flashes as rookie; high draft pick must make most of a chance to start.**
LINEBACKERS									
57	*Baldwin, Johnny	6-1	230	2	Alabama A&M	3/0	W,DET 07	D5 DET 07	Saw action in three games as special teams player until October knee injury.
59	**Edwards, Donnie (O)**	**6-2**	**224**	**13**	**UCLA**	**16/16**	**UFA,SD 07**	**D4 KC 96**	**Battled hamstring problems, but still had 100-plus stops for 12th straight season.**
50	**Harris, Napoleon (M)**	**6-2**	**253**	**7**	**Northwestern**	**16/13**	**UFA,MINN 07**	**D1 OAK 02**	**Career-high 123 tackles led team, but starting spot isn't assured again.**
98	Harris, Nate (M)	6-0	230	2	Louisville	15/0	CFA 07	CFA KC 07	Played in 15 games as special teams regular as rookie.
56	**Johnson, Derrick (O)**	**6-3**	**242**	**4**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D1 05**	**D1 KC 05**	**Promising outside linebacker added first two NFL picks to his four sacks and 107 tackles.**
55	*Thomas, Pat	6-1	237	4	North Carolina State	8/1	D6 05	D6 JAX 05	Midseason pickup from Jaguars played in four Chiefs games, mostly on special teams.
53	Williams, Demorrio (O)	6-1	232	5	Nebraska	16/16	UFA,ATL 08	D4 ATL 04	Starter in 43 of 64 games with Atlanta provides depth at all three linebacker positions.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
35	Barksdale, Rashad (CB)	6-0	208	2	Albany (N.Y.)	6/0	W,PHA 07	D6 PHA 07	Special teams player got in six games, made nine special teams tackles.
34	*Brackenridge, Tyron (CB)	5-11	189	2	Washington State	13/1	CFA 07	CFA KC 07	Undrafted '07 rookie could get starting chance after playing in 13 games as nickel back.
39	Carr, Brandon (CB)	6-0	207	R	Grand Valley State	0/0	D5 08	D5 KC 08	Small-school player gets his shot with team desperate for cornerback help.
20	**Flowers, Brandon (CB)**	**5-9**	**187**	**R**	**Virginia Tech**	**0/0**	**D2 08**	**D2 KC 08**	**Could press for starting spot after getting five picks and eight tackles for loss last year.**
47	McGraw, Jon (S)	6-3	208	7	Kansas State	13/0	UFA,DET 07	D2 NYJ 02	Special teams captain saw action on defense in only five games.
38	Morgan, DaJuan (S)	6-0	203	R	North Carolina State	0/0	D3 08	D3 KC 08	Special teams talents will get him a spot if not on regular defense.
44	**Page, Jarrad (S)**	**6-0**	**225**	**3**	**UCLA**	**16/16**	**D7 06**	**D7 KC 06**	**Sixteen-game starter at free safety in only second season added another three picks to similar first-year total.**
22	Patterson, Dimitri (CB)	5-10	190	2	Tuskegee	13/0	FA 07	CFA WSH 05	Special teams player in 13 games; saw action in regular defense in six.
49	**Pollard, Bernard (S)**	**6-1**	**224**	**3**	**Purdue**	**16/15**	**D2 06**	**D2 KC 06**	**15-game starter at strong safety makes the big hit and had two picks, but also missed too many tackles.**
30	*Sams, B.J. (KR)	5-10	185	5	McNeese State	1/0	UFA,BLT 08	CFA BLT 04	Gets chance as returner, where he flashed with two touchdowns in 2004 as Ravens rookie.
23	**Surtain, Patrick (CB)**	**5-11**	**195**	**11**	**Southern Mississippi**	**16/16**	**T,MIA 05**	**D2 MIA 98**	**Could move to slot coverage after recording only three picks over past two seasons.**
25	Wesley, Greg (S)	6-2	206	9	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	15/1	D3 00	D3 KC 00	Perennial trade candidate still playing as well or better as starting strong safety Pollard.
SPECIALISTS									
2	Colquitt, Dustin (P)	6-3	210	4	Tennessee	16/0	D3 05	D3 KC 05	Tied career-high with 27 inside-the-20 punts, had 39.1-yard net average for the season.
1	Cundiff, Billy (K)	6-1	201	5	Drake	0/0	FA 08	CFA DALL 02	Converted 72 percent (60 of 83) of field-goal attempts in four seasons at Dallas, New Orleans.
51	Darche, J.P. (LS)	6-0	242	9	McGill	16/0	UFA,SEA 07	CFA SEA 00	Long snapper saw several off-target snaps saved by holder Colquitt.
9	Novak, Nick (K)	5-11	191	3	Maryland	0/0	FA 08	CFA CHI 05	Nailed 13 of 20 career field-goal attempts in 16 games with Washington, Arizona.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; FFA=Franchise Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Jabari Arthur (Akron), Kevin McMahan (1, Maine), Luke Swan (Wisconsin); OT Ken Shackelford (1, Georgia); OGs Ian-Yates Cunningham (Virginia), Chris McDuffie (Clemson); C Rob Smith (1, Tennessee); RB Kalvin McRae (Ohio); FBs Mike Cox (Georgia Tech), Chris Manderino (1, California), Steven Jackson (1, Clemson); DEs Johnny Dingle (West Virginia), Jason Parker (Arizona), Jonal Saint-Dic (Michigan State); DTs Derek Lokey (Texas), Maurice Murray (New Mexico State); LBs E.J. Kuale (1, Louisiana State), Steve Octavien (Nebraska); CB Maurice Leggett (Valdosta State); Ss Ron Girault (Clemson), Erick Harris (1, Alabama); PK Connor Barth (North Carolina).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. It's now Brodie Croyle's offense; how will he handle it? Croyle will run the show from day one in spring, and he needs to do something with this chance. Otherwise, the Chiefs will have to consider what to do at the position.
2. The Glenn Dorsey effect? Kansas City's top draft pick, No. 5 overall, needs to be an immediate run-stuffer showing at least some pass-rush potential. They will be hoping the leg he injured in 2006 won't be an issue.
3. Can they learn to win? Coach Herm Edwards' young players got valuable experience last year, but you also have to win at some point, and soon. Owner Clark Hunt is patient like his father Lamar, but for how long?

ON THE HOT SEAT

Larry Johnson

Remember Larry Johnson?

That's him, the hard-running back with the chip on his shoulder who finally made the most of his impatiently-awaited chance when in 2005 he ran for 1,750 yards, 20 touchdowns and a 5.2-yard rushing average in only nine starts as the replacement for the injured Priest Holmes.

A year later, Johnson ran for 1,789 yards, 17 touchdowns and a 4.3-yard average in 2006 when he started all 16 games for a playoff team.

But Johnson slipped from the radar in 2007 even before the foot injury that knocked him out of the final eight games. Johnson was averaging only 3.5 yards on 158 carries in the 7 1/2 games prior to his foot injury. Hoping Johnson could return late in the season, the Chiefs kept him on the active roster until late December when Johnson had a relapse while trying to run on the foot.

Now the question becomes: What kind of back will he be when he makes his comeback this year?

His offensive line may not be vastly improved from a year ago. Moreover, Chiefs fans will be watching closely to see how he runs and cuts on his supposedly healed foot. For Kansas City to improve at all in 2008, a return of the Larry Johnson of 2006 will be an important element.

games. The decline deepened as Donnie Edwards, a sideline-to-sideline playmaker for most of his outstanding 12-year career, finally seemed to hit the wall at age 34. Strong-side backer Derrick Johnson continued to show flashes of future stardom, but his plays usually came earlier, rather than later, in games. Middle linebacker Napoleon Harris led the Chiefs in tackles in his first year in Kansas City, but he wasn't as good in deep-middle pass coverage as the Cover 2 team needed him to be. Free agent Demorrio Williams provides depth and could give Cunningham a chance to move Edwards inside.

RATING: 5.5

SECONDARY

Ty Law learned last year what fans had known for years. That is, without a consistent pass rush, Chiefs corners can't hold coverage forever and can be made to look pretty bad. What will things be like this year without Jared Allen? The 33-year-old Law is now gone after abandoning his vaunted press-coverage style for an off technique necessary to keep younger, faster receivers from running past him when given all day to do so. Fellow veteran Patrick Surtain, who will be 32 this year, may not be far behind him. Their replacement candidates are unproven, to put it politely. Rookie Brandon Flowers will get a chance to start here with Tyron Brackenridge and Dimitri Patterson also getting chances after seeing plenty of playing time last year. Safeties Jarrad Page and Bernard Pollard begin their third year.

RATING: 5.5

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Dustin Colquitt was a key defensive weapon last year. He ranked seventh league-wide in gross punting (45.5) and fifth in net (39.1). But the Chiefs ran through three kickers last year after draftee Justin Medlock was cut after the opener. Billy Cundiff and Nick Novak went into the spring as the candidates for the job. Long snapper Jean-Phillippe Darche didn't have any bad snaps, but holder Colquitt saved him on several occasions. Coverage teams were solid, but the return game was all but non-existent. Sixth-round draft pick Kevin Robinson set an NCAA record for all-purpose yardage thanks mainly to his kickoff returns, and if he can come anywhere close to doing in the NFL what he did in the point-productive WAC, the return job could be his.

RATING: 5.5

INTANGIBLES

With a rebuilding team built on a foundation of younger players, Edwards sees youthful enthusiasm and energy as a positive that will bode well for the Chiefs in the immediate future. That, however, is coach-speak for "We're mistake prone, but we're going to get better." Someday, perhaps. But this day? Unlikely.

RATING: Minus 1

—Rick Dean

2007 RESULTS

Record: 4-12

Sep. 9	at Houston	3-20
Sep. 16	at Chicago	10-20
Sep. 23	MINNESOTA	13-10
Sep. 30	at San Diego	30-16
Oct. 7	JACKSONVILLE	7-17
Oct. 14	CINCINNATI	27-20
Oct. 21	at Oakland	12-10
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	GREEN BAY	22-33
Nov. 11	DENVER	11-27
Nov. 18	at Indianapolis	10-13
Nov. 25	OAKLAND	17-20
Dec. 2	SAN DIEGO	10-24
Dec. 9	at Denver	7-41
Dec. 16	TENNESSEE	17-26
Dec. 23	at Detroit	20-25
Dec. 30	at N.Y. Jets (OT)	10-13

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 7	at Chicago (Thu.)	7:00
Aug. 16	ARIZONA (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	at Miami (Sat.)	7:30
Aug. 28	ST. LOUIS (Thu.)	7:00
Sep. 7	at New England	1:00
Sep. 14	OAKLAND	12:00
Sep. 21	at Atlanta	1:00
Sep. 28	DENVER	12:00
Oct. 5	at Carolina	1:00
Oct. 12	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 19	TENNESSEE	12:00
Oct. 26	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Nov. 2	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Nov. 9	at San Diego	1:15
Nov. 16	NEW ORLEANS	12:00
Nov. 23	BUFFALO	12:00
Nov. 30	at Oakland	1:15
Dec. 7	at Denver	2:05
Dec. 14	SAN DIEGO	12:00
Dec. 21	MIAMI	12:00
Dec. 28	at Cincinnati	1:00

AT A GLANCE

1220 Harbor Bay Parkway
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 864-5000

TRAINING CAMP:
Marriott; Napa, CA

COACH:
Lane Kiffin, 2nd year with Raiders and as NFL head coach (4-12)

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS:
Mark Jackson
Rich Snead

SCOUTING COORDINATORS
Jon Kingdon
Kent McCloughan

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Greg Knapp	Offensive coordinator	15	2
John DeFilippo	Quarterbacks	4	2
Tom Cable	Offensive line	3	2
James Cregg	Asst. offensive line	2	2
Tom Rathman	Running backs	12	2
James Lofton	Receivers	7	1
Kelly Skipper	Tight ends	2	2
Sanjay Lal	Off. quality control	2	2
Adam Henry	Off. quality control	2	2
Rob Ryan	Defensive coordinator	11	5
Keith Millard	Defensive line	7	4
Don Johnson	Asst. defensive line	4	2
Don Martindale	Linebackers	5	5
Darren Perry	Secondary	7	2
Randy Hanson	Asst. secondary	6	2
Don Martin	Defensive assistant	11	11
George Martinez	Def. quality control	3	3
Brian Schneider	Special teams	2	2
Brad Roll	Strength & Cond.	16	1
Willie Brown	Squad development/DBs	25	25

Nothing Changes in Oakland: Coach Under the Gun Again

The Raiders upgraded their running game and repaired a fractured locker room, but accomplished little else in 2007, finishing with a 4-12 record that had coach Lane Kiffin on the ropes in one of the most active off-seasons in club history.

Kiffin survived, as did embattled defensive coordinator Rob Ryan, as Al Davis went deep into his pocketbook to upgrade the talent on a once-proud franchise that has been in a 19-61 death spiral over the past five years.

With all the new acquisitions, Kiffin's fate will be determined by how second-year quarterback JaMarcus Russell fares as the starting quarterback following a rookie season in which he was mostly a spectator due to a contract impasse.

A favorable schedule plus high-profile newcomers no doubt have Davis expecting a Raiders renaissance — or else.

COACHING

Kiffin, a college co-coordinator at Southern Cal, received generally favorable reviews despite the 4-12 record. His sphere of influence was supposed to include personnel, although it appears his main priority is to add some flash to a plodding offense that was sixth in the league in rushing, but 23rd in scoring.

He'll have more talent, but a quarterback who is essentially a rookie. Greg Knapp is a solid sounding board as offensive coordinator, and line coach Tom Cable converted Oakland's much-maligned offensive line into a capable zone-blocking unit.

On defense, Ryan was retained by Davis for the final year of his contract even though Kiffin and Ryan both agreed it might be better if he moved on. The Raiders have been inconsistent defensively for four years and last year were a sieve against the run.

Special teams coach Brian Schneider was better liked than predecessor Ted Daisher, but his unit was wildly inconsistent — shutting down Devin Hester one week, giving up touchdown returns the next.

RATING: 6

QUARTERBACKS

Russell didn't get his first substantial playing time until Week 16 and had his first start in the season finale. He was awful on the road in Jacksonville (7-for-23, 83 yards, one touchdown, three interceptions) and did some good things at home against San Diego (23-for-31, 224 yards, one touchdown, one interception). He has been given an upgraded supporting cast in his first year as the starter, but will make his share of mistakes. Backup Andrew Walter, once the Raiders' quarterback of the future, is waiting for his contract to expire in two years.

RATING: 5.5

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
WR Javon Walker

The Raiders say Walker's knee checked out fine and based on the $16 million in guaranteed money he received, he will be expected to return his 2004 form in Green Bay, when he had 89 receptions for 1,382 yards and 12 touchdowns.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
WR Drew Carter, DE Kalimba Edwards, CB DeAngelo Hall, OT Kwame Harris, DT William Joseph, LB Ed Hartwell, CB Duane Starks, C John Wade, CB Michael Waddell, FS Gibril Wilson

KEY LOSS:
DE Chris Clemons (16/2)*
When the Raiders were busy making sure Tommy Kelly's services were retained, there wasn't enough to go around for Clemons, who tied Burgess as the team's leader with eight sacks as a nickel rusher. He signed with the Eagles.

OTHER LOSSES:
DE/DT Tyler Brayton (16/0), CB/S Chris Carr (16/2), WR/KR Tim Dwight (6/1), QB Josh McCown (9/9), C Jeremy Newberry (14/14), WR Jerry Porter (16/16), RB Dominic Rhodes (10/2), DT Warren Sapp (16/16), OT Barry Sims (16/16), CB Fabian Washington (15/3)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
17; 7 offense, 10 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

RUNNING BACKS

Justin Fargas didn't start until Week 7, missed the last two games and gained 1,009 yards on pure blood and guts. No. 4 overall pick Darren McFadden will get his share of carries and be utilized as a receiver out of the backfield, both split wide and set in motion. Michael Bush, two years after a broken leg in the last year of his college career, will make his case for a role.

At fullback, Justin Griffith is an undersized veteran presence and a good locker-room influence, but could be moved out by Oren O'Neal, who the Raiders see as a potentially devastating lead blocker.

RATING: 7.5

RECEIVERS

Incumbent Ronald Curry has led the team in receptions two years running, but had trouble holding onto the ball last year. He has been joined by free agents Javon Walker and Drew Carter, both of whom are expected to give Russell a downfield presence. All three have substantial injury histories.

Johnnie Lee Higgins showed little as a rookie last season, and has been joined by draft picks Arman Shields and Chaz Schilens, with Shields being the most intriguing of the pair after recovering from posterior cruciate ligament surgery and having a strong combine.

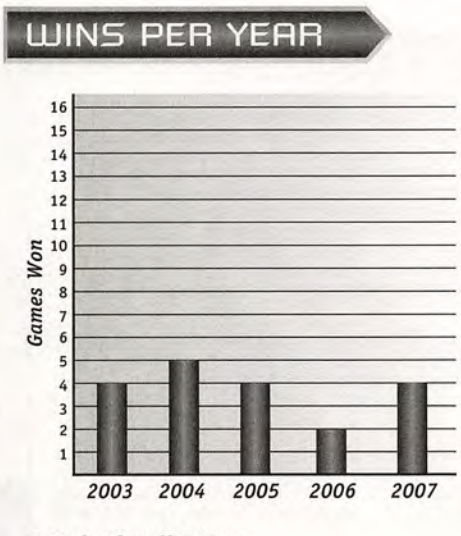
Tight end is in sure hands with second-year man Zach Miller, who led all NFL rookie tight ends with 44 receptions and seemed to develop a chemistry with Russell in the last two games of the season.

John Madsen is a tweener with excellent receiving skills, who wasn't utilized as much as he could have been.

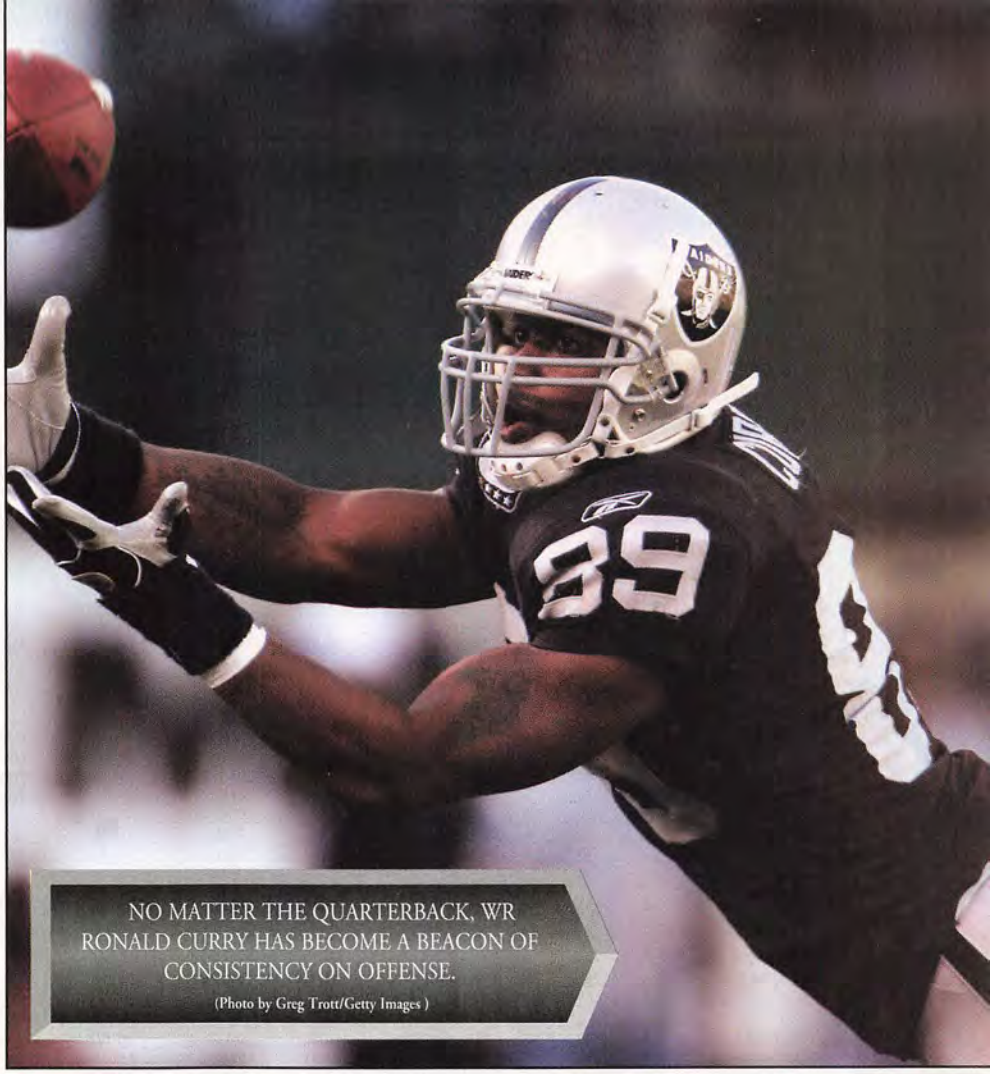
RATING 7.5

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Under the direction of Cable, the Raiders cut their sacks allowed from 72 to 41 and went from 29th in rushing to sixth.



** Made Playoffs: None*



NO MATTER THE QUARTERBACK, WR RONALD CURRY HAS BECOME A BEACON OF CONSISTENCY ON OFFENSE.

(Photo by Greg Trott/Getty Images)

Robert Gallery was prone to penalties, but made a successful conversion from left tackle to left guard. The other starting guard, Cooper Carlisle, was Oakland's most consistent lineman. Free agent John Wade, a durable veteran, will replace Jeremy Newberry as the starting center and should be at least a moderate upgrade.

The men protecting Russell from edge rushers are question marks. Kwame Harris was a solid run blocker in San Francisco, but struggled in pass protection and has been installed at left tackle. At right tackle, journeyman Cornell Green is penciled in as the starter, but the Raiders would love to see Mario Henderson, a third-round pick in 2007, seize the job.

Paul McQuistan, who started after Green got hurt late in the season, will vie for a job as a reserve guard or tackle. Chris Morris was the backup left guard last season and can also play center. Jake Grove was a highly regarded center coming out of college, but fought a knee injury last season and can play center or guard.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

The Raiders thought enough of Tommy Kelly to pay him an $18.125 million signing bonus to replace the retired Warren Sapp at the 3-technique tackle, even though Kelly was done after seven games last season with a torn ACL.

Terdell Sands, counted upon to be a run stopper on the nose, was beset by family tragedies and had a poor season. Left end Derrick Burgess is the best pass rusher, but has seen his sack numbers dwindle the past three seasons from 16 to 11 to eight.

Left end Jay Richardson, a fifth-round pick, was a pleasant surprise at right end, but his pressure tends to come in the form of long arms and obstructing vision, rather than an explosive rush.

Gerard Warren, imported from Denver, followed his career-long trend of looking alternately sensational and mediocre. The Raiders would love to see rookie Trevor Scott emerge as a pass rusher, but it's a tall order for someone from a small school (Buffalo), who has been a defensive end for two years.

More likely, the role filled by free agent Chris Clemons last year will fall to Kalimba Edwards, who has some decent sack numbers by Raiders standards, but never measured up in Detroit.

RATING: 6

LINEBACKERS

Middle linebacker Kirk Morrison and weak-side starter Thomas Howard represent two of the finest linebackers in pass coverage in the NFL, combin-

Raiders Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
18	Carter, Drew	6-3	200	5	Ohio State	16/7	UFA,CARO 08	D5 CARO 04	Downfield capability makes him a good match for QB Russell.
89	**Curry, Ronald (KR)**	**6-2**	**210**	**6**	**North Carolina**	**16/13**	**FA 02**	**D7 OAK 02**	**Leading receiver last two years, but too many drops last season.**
15	Higgins, Johnnie Lee	5-11	185	2	Texas-El Paso	16/2	D3 07	D3 OAK 07	Third-round pick made little impact as receiver, return specialist.
10	*Holland, Jonathan	6-1	195	2	Louisiana Tech	0/0	D7 07	D7 OAK 07	Sustained shoulder injury in camp and spent rookie year on IR.
85	Madsen, John (TE)	6-5	240	3	Utah	16/3	CFA 06	CFA OAK 06	Tweener has good receiving skills, but not big on blocking.
14	McFoy, Chris	6-1	200	1	Southern Cal	3/0	FA 07	CFA OAK 07	Promoted from practice squad; caught one pass for 19 yards in three games.
80	**Miller, Zach (TE)**	**6-5**	**255**	**2**	**Arizona State**	**16/16**	**D2 07**	**D2 OAK 07**	**Rookie tight end set Raiders rookie receiving mark with 44 catches.**
82	Schilens, Chaz	6-4	225	R	San Diego State	0/0	D7 08	D7 OAK 08	Couldn't pass on size-speed combination in seventh round.
84	Shields, Arman	6-1	195	R	Richmond	0/0	D4 08	D4 OAK 08	Combine star eased doubts about knee injury in senior year.
86	Stewart, Tony (TE)	6-5	260	8	Penn State	16/0	UFA,CIN 07	D5 PHA 01	Player rep played in all 16 games, but never caught a pass.
47	*Wakefield, Fred (TE)	6-7	295	8	Illinois	0/0	UFA,ARIZ 07	CFA ARIZ 01	Former offensive lineman on IR all season following knee surgery.
17	**Walker, Javon**	**6-3**	**215**	**7**	**Florida State**	**8/5**	**FA 08**	**D1 GB 02**	**Former Bronco, Packer eager to prove he is worth huge bonus check.**
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
66	**Carlisle, Cooper (G)**	**6-5**	**295**	**9**	**Florida**	**16/16**	**UFA,DEN 07**	**D4 DEN 00**	**Starting right guard was Raiders' most consistent lineman in '07.**
76	**Gallery, Robert (G)**	**6-7**	**325**	**5**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**D1 04**	**D1 OAK 04**	**Promising year inside could help him shed label of draft bust.**
74	***Green, Cornell (T)**	**6-6**	**315**	**8**	**UCF**	**10/10**	**UFA,TB 07**	**CFA ATL 99**	**Journeyman started 10 games, got hurt, returned in free agency.**
64	*Grove, Jake (C)	6-4	300	5	Virginia Tech	7/2	D2 04	D2 OAK 04	Lost out in starting bid; season a washout after knee injury.
77	**Harris, Kwame (T)**	**6-7**	**325**	**6**	**Stanford**	**12/0**	**UFA,SF 08**	**D1 SF 03**	**Line coach Cable convinced he can be left tackle in zone blocking system.**
75	Henderson, Mario (T)	6-7	300	2	Florida State	1/0	D3 07	D3 OAK 07	Active for three games; expected to challenge at right tackle.
79	McQuistan, Paul (G)	6-6	315	3	Weber State	16/6	D3 06	D3 OAK 06	Finished as starting right tackle, but may be suited to guard.
51	Morris, Chris (C)	6-4	305	2	Michigan State	10/0	FA 06	D7 OAK 06	Smart, versatile and can play all three inside positions.
78	Palmer, Jonathan (T)	6-5	335	1	Auburn	0/0	FA 07	CFA PHA 07	Signed off Steelers' practice squad to see what he can do.
73	Spieker, Adam (C)	6-3	305	R	Missouri	0/0	CFA 08	CFA OAK 08	Undrafted free agent was durable, dependable for impressive Tigers.
71	**Wade, John (C)**	**6-5**	**300**	**11**	**Marshall**	**16/16**	**UFA,TB 08**	**D5 JAX 98**	**Penciled in as starter because of toughness and durability.**
72	Wand, Seth (T)	6-7	330	6	Northwest Missouri	0/0	FA 07	D3 HOUS 03	Former Texans starter signed as free agent last November.
63	Wilson, Mark (T)	6-7	320	2	California	0/0	FA 07	D5 WSH 04	Promoted from practice squad as reward for solid practice work.
RUNNING BACKS									
29	Bush, Michael	6-1	245	1	Louisville	0/0	D4 07	D4 OAK 07	Nearly two years after broken leg, he will get his chance in camp.
38	Echemandu, Adimchinobe	5-10	225	5	California	9/0	FA 08	D7 CLV 04	Last year's training camp surprise back for another look.
25	***Fargas, Justin**	**6-1**	**220**	**6**	**Southern Cal**	**14/7**	**D3 03**	**D3 OAK 03**	**Persistence and work ethic made him poster boy for Kiffin regime.**
36	**Griffith, Justin (FB)**	**6-0**	**230**	**5**	**Mississippi State**	**16/11**	**UFA,ATL 07**	**D4 ATL 03**	**Smallish fullback can catch and is deadly cut blocker.**
34	Jordan, LaMont	5-10	230	8	Maryland	12/7	UFA,NYJ 05	D2 NYJ 01	Former starter pushed into background by younger backs.
20	McFadden, Darren	6-2	210	R	Arkansas	0/0	D1 08	D1 OAK 08	Expected to turbocharge effective, but plodding running game.
46	O'Neal, Oren (FB)	5-11	245	2	Arkansas State	14/1	D6 07	D6 OAK 07	Second-year fullback may force way into lineup as lead blocker.
QUARTERBACKS									
2	**Russell, JaMarcus**	**6-6**	**255**	**2**	**Louisiana State**	**4/1**	**D1 07**	**D1 OAK 07**	**Big body, bigger arm; ready or not, here he comes.**
16	Walter, Andrew	6-6	230	4	Arizona State	1/0	D3 05	D3 OAK 05	Former Raiders QB of the future has two years left on contract.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
56	**Burgess, Derrick (E)**	**6-2**	**260**	**8**	**Mississippi**	**14/14**	**UFA,PHA 05**	**D3 PHA 01**	**Had to rally to get eight sacks because of nagging injuries.**
58	Edwards, Kalimba (E)	6-6	265	7	South Carolina	8/6	FA 08	D2 DET 02	Signed to provide third-down pass rush and replace Chris Clemons.
96	*Joseph, William (T)	6-5	310	6	Miami	0/0	UFA, NYG 08	D1 NYG 03	Ex-Giants first-round pick hoping to jump-start career in Oakland.
93	***Kelly, Tommy (T)**	**6-6**	**300**	**5**	**Mississippi State**	**7/6**	**CFA 04**	**CFA OAK 04**	**Silent veteran, recovering from ACL tear, will replace Warren Sapp.**
98	**Richardson, Jay (E)**	**6-6**	**280**	**2**	**Ohio State**	**16/11**	**D5 07**	**D5 OAK 07**	**Fifth-round pick had promising rookie year as base end.**
90	**Sands, Terdell (NT)**	**6-7**	**335**	**6**	**Tennessee-Chattanooga**	**16/11**	**W,GB 03**	**D7 KC 01**	**Supposed run-stuffing nose tackle came in out of shape and struggled all year.**
91	Scott, Trevor (E)	6-5	255	R	Buffalo	0/0	D6 08	D6 OAK 08	Converted tight end is raw, but has edge speed Raiders are looking for.
95	Shaw, Josh (T)	6-3	305	4	Michigan State	1/0	FA 07	D5 SF 02	Fringe lineman has bounced between roster and practice squad.
61	Warren, Gerard (T)	6-4	330	8	Florida	12/5	T,DEN 07	D1 CLV 01	Looked explosive some weeks and was invisible in others.
LINEBACKERS									
47	Alston, Jon (O/S)	6-0	225	3	Stanford	13/0	FA 07	D3 STL 06	Played on special teams and utilized in pass coverage sets.
57	Brown, Ricky (M)	6-2	235	3	Boston College	16/1	FA 06	CFA OAK 06	Appeal is that he plays special teams and can play all three spots.
50	Ekejiuba, Isaiah (O)	6-4	240	4	Virginia	10/0	FA 05	CFA ARZ 05	Special teams suffered when he was injured, which was often.
94	Gbaja-Biamila, Akbar (O)	6-5	260	3	San Diego State	0/0	FA 08	CFA OAK 03	Played line in previous stint, will try linebacker this time.
44	Hartwell, Ed (M)	6-1	250	7	Western Illinois	0/0	FA 08	D4 BLT 01	Getting another shot; injuries have doomed him since leaving Ravens.
53	**Howard, Thomas (O)**	**6-3**	**240**	**3**	**Texas-El Paso**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 OAK 06**	**One of league's fastest linebackers; had two interceptions returned for touchdowns.**
52	**Morrison, Kirk (M)**	**6-2**	**240**	**4**	**San Diego State**	**16/16**	**D3 05**	**D3 OAK 05**	**Leading tackler, but too many after substantial rushing gains.**
55	**Thomas, Robert (O)**	**6-0**	**235**	**7**	**UCLA**	**14/10**	**FA 06**	**D1 STL 02**	**Became strongside starter due to injury and retained job.**
54	Williams, Sam (O)	6-5	260	6	Fresno State	11/4	D3 03	D3 OAK 03	Has missed 44 of 80 games to injury since being drafted.
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
21	**Asomugha, Nnamdi (CB)**	**6-2**	**210**	**6**	**California**	**15/15**	**D1 03**	**D1 OAK 03**	**Exclusive franchise player was a lonely man in pass coverage.**
27	Baker, Rashad (S)	5-10	200	5	Tennessee	8/0	W,NE 07	CFA BUFF 04	Waived by Patriots after eight games; had no impact with Raiders.
35	Bowie, John (CB)	5-11	190	2	Cincinnati	2/0	D4 07	D4 OAK 07	Corner drafted with Randy Moss pick was active just once.
33	Branch, Tyvon (S)	6-0	205	R	Connecticut	0/0	D4 08	D4 OAK 08	Fast and aggressive, he is projected as a sure-tackling safety.
40	*Cooper, Jarrod (S)	6-1	215	8	Kansas State	6/0	FA 07	D5 CARO 01	Special teams live wire almost fully recovered from ACL tear.
31	Eugene, Hiram (S)	6-2	200	2	Louisiana Tech	16/5	FA 06	CFA OAK 05	Started last five games, wasn't credited with a single pass defensed.
23	**Hall, DeAngelo (CB)**	**5-10**	**200**	**5**	**Virginia Tech**	**16/15**	**T,ATL 08**	**D1 ATL 04**	**Two-time Pro Bowler happy to be wealthy and feel wanted.**
24	**Huff, Michael (S)**	**6-1**	**205**	**3**	**Texas**	**16/16**	**D1 06**	**D1 OAK 06**	**Theory is move to free safety will enable him to make more plays.**
37	Johnson, Chris (CB)	6-1	200	5	Louisville	13/0	FA 07	D7 GB 03	Coaches love his speed in secondary and on special teams.
26	Routt, Stanford (CB)	6-1	195	4	Houston	16/14	D2 05	S2 OAK 05	Started last season; he will be nickel corner after Hall trade.
30	Schweigert, Stuart (S)	6-2	210	5	Purdue	15/10	D3 04	D3 OAK 04	Veteran may be the poster boy for Raiders tackling woes.
22	Starks, Duane (CB)	5-10	175	10	Miami	0/0	FA 08	D1 BLT 98	Heady veteran keeps getting cut, only to be signed again.
32	*Waddell, Michael (CB)	5-10	180	4	North Carolina	0/0	FA 08	D4 TB 04	Out of football for nearly two years because of injuries.
28	**Wilson, Gibril (S)**	**6-0**	**210**	**5**	**Tennessee**	**13/13**	**UFA,NYG 08**	**D5 NYG 04**	**Signed to bring physicality to secondary that desperately needs it.**
SPECIALISTS									
59	Condo, Jon (LS)	6-3	250	2	Maryland	16/0	FA 07	CFA DALL 05	Flawless first year as replacement for longtime snapper Adam Treu.
11	Janikowski, Sebastian (K)	6-2	250	9	Florida State	16/0	D1 00	D1 OAK 00	Eight-year veteran made 71.9 pct of field-goal attempts; lowest of career.
9	Lechler, Shane (P)	6-2	225	9	Texas A&M	16/0	D5 00	D5 OAK 00	Only blight on magnificent year was two returns for touchdowns.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Will Buchanon (1, Southern Cal), Drisan James (1, Boise State), Todd Watkins (1/W,ATL; Brigham Young); TE's Darrell Strong (Pittsburgh), Chris Wagner (South Dakota State); OG Brandon Rodd (Arizona State); C Jesse Boone (1, Utah); RB Louis Rankin (Washington); FB Matt Hahn (Penn State); QBs Erik Meyer (1, Eastern Washington), Jeff Otis (1, Columbia), Brian White (Portland State); DEs Derrick Gray (Texas Southern), Greyson Gunheim (Washington); LBs Malik Jackson (Louisville), Shane Simmons (Western Washington); CB Darrick Brown (McNeese State).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. A fast start. It was a tenuous off-season for coach Lane Kiffin, who as late as the scouting combine wasn't sure if he would retain his job. After all the free-agent acquisitions, a slow start against mediocre opposition could mean an in-season coaching change.
2. Russell's crash course. The Raiders have lots of ideas about how versatile and dangerous their offense can be with explosive additions at wide receiver and running back. None of it will mean anything if quarterback JaMarcus Russell doesn't avoid turnovers and mistakes.
3. Rebound of Sands. Stopping the run has been a Raiders problem all four years Ryan has been defensive coordinator. Defensive tackle Terdell Sands was expected to control the middle, but struggled last season. The company line is he is now in shape and ready to go.

ON THE HOT SEAT

DeAngelo Hall

DeAngelo Hall managed to talk his way out of Atlanta, with the Raiders giving up second- and fifth-round draft picks and a contract that makes him one of the richest cornerbacks in the NFL.

A spectacular talent with big-play ability, Hall also has been victimized for his share of plays and had a disturbing on-field meltdown last season against Carolina and wide receiver Steve Smith.

The presence of Nnamdi Asomugha on the other side means Hall will get plenty of passes headed his way. With the Raiders playing more pressing man-to-man coverage than any team in the league, Hall says he is up to the challenge.

But no cornerback can hold up continually without consistent pressure against the quarterback, and the Raiders have not been a strong pass rushing team and haven't made any personnel changes that indicate it should improve a great deal.

So Hall will not only be tested in coverage, but he will be tested in terms of composure and his ability to deal with occasions when he gives up big plays.

He will be out on an island at corner, easy to spot if things go wrong.

ing for 10 interceptions (six for Howard, four for Morrison). Morrison has led the Raiders in tackles three years running, and Howard's sideline-to-sideline speed ranks with any linebacker in the NFL.

Neither, however, distinguished themselves filling the gap as a run defender as the Raiders gave up 100 yards rushing to 10 different running backs and finished 29th against the run.

Robert Thomas unseated injury-prone Sam Williams on the strong side but is the first person out on passing downs. Isaiah Ekejiuba and Ricky Brown are primarily special teams players.

RATING: 7.5

SECONDARY

Defensive coordinator Ryan is prone to exaggeration, but when he proclaims Nnamdi Asomugha and trade acquisition DeAngelo Hall to be the best cornerback tandem in the NFL, he may be right. Asomugha was ignored by every team in the league last year while teams attacked the opposite side. Stanford Routt, a starter last season, slides into the slot corner role, where he has struggled in the past.

With hard-hitting Gibril Wilson acquired as a free agent, the thinking is Michael Huff can shift to free safety. Huff, slender for the strong side, has been solid in coverage against opposing tight ends, but has just one interception in 32 games. Rookie fourth-round pick Tyvon Branch is viewed as a safety, who can help shore up Oakland's shaky tackling.

RATING: 8

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Sebastian Janikowski missed nine field-goal attempts and his 71.9 percentage was the worst of his career. He continues to be too streaky for anyone's comfort.

Punter Shane Lechler had the best averages of his career with a 49.1 net and a 41.1 gross — the latter his first time over 40 yards. He had just seven touchbacks after 19 in 2006.

Coverage units could be spectacular one week, bottling up Chicago's Devin Hester, and awful the next (two punt returns for touchdowns). The Raiders were good when core special teamers Isaiah Ekejiuba and Jarrod Cooper were healthy, and bad when they weren't. Other solid core players need to be identified and developed.

RATING: 7

INTANGIBLES

It is a cauldron of pressure from above. Davis has bestowed a young, embattled head coach and a defensive coordinator in the last year of his contract with more talent, but it must be blended quickly because things tend to go bad for the Raiders after a poor start. Throw in an inexperienced quarterback and difficulties defending the run and it could go either way despite a relatively soft schedule.

RATING: Minus 1

—Jerry MacDonald

2007 RESULTS

Record: 4-12

Sep. 9	DETROIT	21-36
Sep. 16	at Denver (OT)	20-23
Sep. 23	CLEVELAND	26-24
Sep. 30	at Miami	35-17
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at San Diego	14-28
Oct. 21	KANSAS CITY	10-12
Oct. 28	at Tennessee	9-13
Nov. 4	HOUSTON	17-24
Nov. 11	CHICAGO	6-17
Nov. 18	at Minnesota	22-29
Nov. 25	at Kansas City	20-17
Dec. 2	DENVER	34-20
Dec. 9	at Green Bay	7-38
Dec. 16	INDIANAPOLIS	14-21
Dec. 23	at Jacksonville	11-49
Dec. 30	SAN DIEGO	17-30

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 8	SAN FRANCISCO (Fri.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at Tennessee (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 23	ARIZONA (Sat.)	6:00
Aug. 29	at Seattle (Fri.)	7:00
Sep. 8	DENVER (Mon.)	7:15
Sep. 14	at Kansas City	12:00
Sep. 21	at Buffalo	1:00
Sep. 28	SAN DIEGO	1:05
Oct. 5	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 12	at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 19	N.Y. JETS	1:15
Oct. 26	at Baltimore	1:00
Nov. 2	ATLANTA	1:15
Nov. 9	CAROLINA	1:05
Nov. 16	at Miami	1:00
Nov. 23	at Denver	2:05
Nov. 30	KANSAS CITY	1:15
Dec. 4	at San Diego (Thu.)	5:15
Dec. 14	NEW ENGLAND	1:15
Dec. 21	HOUSTON	1:05
Dec. 28	at Tampa Bay	1:00

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

2007 RECORD: 13-6 | STADIUM: Qualcomm Stadium, 70,000, Grass | PROJECTED FINISH: 1st

AFC WEST

www.chargers.com

AT A GLANCE

4020 Murphy Canyon Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 874-4500

TRAINING CAMP:
Chargers Park

COACH:
Norv Turner, 2nd year with Chargers (13-6), 11th year as NFL head coach (72-89-1)

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER:
A.J. Smith

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOOTBALL OPERATIONS/ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER/:
Ed McGuire

DIRECTOR PLAYER PERSONNEL:
Jimmy Raye

DIRECTOR COLLEGE SCOUTING:
John Spanos

DIRECTOR PRO SCOUTING:
Dennis Abraham

SENIOR EXECUTIVE:
Randy Mueller

COACHING STAFF

Name	Position	NFL Yrs.	TEAM Yrs.
Clarence Shelmon	Offensive coordinator	18	7
John Ramsdell	Quarterbacks	14	3
John (Jack) Henry	Offensive line	15	4
Hal Hunter	Offensive line	3	3
Ollie Wilson	Running backs	18	6
Charlie Joiner	Receivers	22	6
Clancy Barone	Tight ends	5	2
Ted Cottrell	Defensive coordinator	24	2
Wayne Nunnely	Defensive line	14	12
Ron Rivera	Inside linebackers	12	2
John Pagano	Outside linebackers	13	7
Bill Bradley	Secondary	8	2
Kevin Ross	Asst. secondary/qual.cont.	5	2
Steve Crosby	Special teams	31	7
Jeff Hurd	Strength & Cond.	14	2
Vernon Stephens	Strength & Cond.	4	2

Nothing Short of Super Bowl on Chargers' Minds

A team with super success recently aches for a Super Bowl berth.

The Chargers enter the season with its eyes on the big prize, which is hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy come February in Tampa, Fla. Anything less than at least being a party to the game would be considered a lost season.

Only the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts — the last two AFC teams to win Super Bowls — have won more games than the Chargers the past four seasons. That's among the reasons the Chargers think it's their turn to reach the Super Bowl, after the Patriots eliminated them in the past two playoffs.

But not only are the Chargers built for an extended playoff stint, they realize there is no time like the present.

The incomparable LaDainian Tomlinson is entering his eighth season, which is a lengthy NFL stay for any running back. Tomlinson has long said he's not sticking around past his prime just to chase records, so it's obvious Tomlinson has a lot more NFL yesterdays than tomorrows.

The Chargers would be wise to not let the opportunity of possessing Tomlinson slip away, much like in the late 1970s and early 1980s when the Chargers didn't close the deal when featuring Hall of Famers in Dan Fouts, Charlie Joiner and Kellen Winslow.

Back then a sappy theme song was introduced, with the chorus of "San Diego Super Chargers." That phase is as appropriate now as it was when Air Coryell was lighting up the NFL skies.

Can the Chargers' 2008 flight take them to Super Bowl XLIII? Absolutely. But in the rugged AFC, the Chargers know it's a goal that won't be easy to come by.

COACHING

Norv Turner surprised many naysayers when leading the Chargers to their first conference title game since the 1994 season and third AFC West crown in four years. What impressed his players was how he stayed the course during last year's slow start — losing three of their first four games — and didn't panic when faced with various obstacles. With Turner's offense in place since he was the team's offensive coordinator in 2001 and Ted Cottrell running the same 3-4 that Wade Phillips installed here in 2004, both sides of the ball show familiarity with the coaches' philosophies.

RATING: 8

QUARTERBACKS

Philip Rivers' stature among his teammates has never been higher after playing in the AFC Championship Game with a torn ACL in his knee. But there's more to this quarterback than guts, as his quick release and heady play is among the reasons the Chargers are among the NFL's elite teams. Rivers' second season as a starter, though, had a few bumps. But he steadied himself in throwing for 21 touchdowns and 15 interceptions. Rivers' head, as well as his arm, are his biggest attributes and there's

ADDITIONS & LOSSES

KEY ADDITION:
LB Derek Smith

Smith's arrival looms larger after Stephen Cooper was suspended for the first four games. Instead of having to rely on a second-year backup, the Chargers trot out a game-tested veteran for the season's opening month, which includes two games against AFC West foes.

OTHER ADDITIONS:
OT L.J. Shelton

KEY LOSS:
RB Michael Turner (16/0)*
If LaDainian Tomlinson stays fit, Turner fleeing to Atlanta is no big deal. But if Tomlinson gets nicked, Turner's absence could deflate a high-octane offense that sets up the passing game off a strong running attack.

OTHER LOSSES:
CB Drayton Florence (16/10), S Marlon McCree (16/16), FB Lorenzo Neal (13/8), OT Shane Olivea (13/10), K Dave Rayner (1/0)*

STARTERS RETURNING:
18; 9 offense, 9 defense, kicker, punter

* Number in parentheses is games played/games started in 2007

no reason why he won't improve in his third year — his reconstructed knee willing.

The Chargers felt fortunate backup Billy Volek decided to stay despite being a free agent after last season. It was Volek who led the team on the decisive late drive when knocking off the defending world champion Colts in Indianapolis in the playoffs.

Volek's value could grow if Rivers suffers any setbacks in rebounding from his knee injury.

RATING: 8

RUNNING BACKS

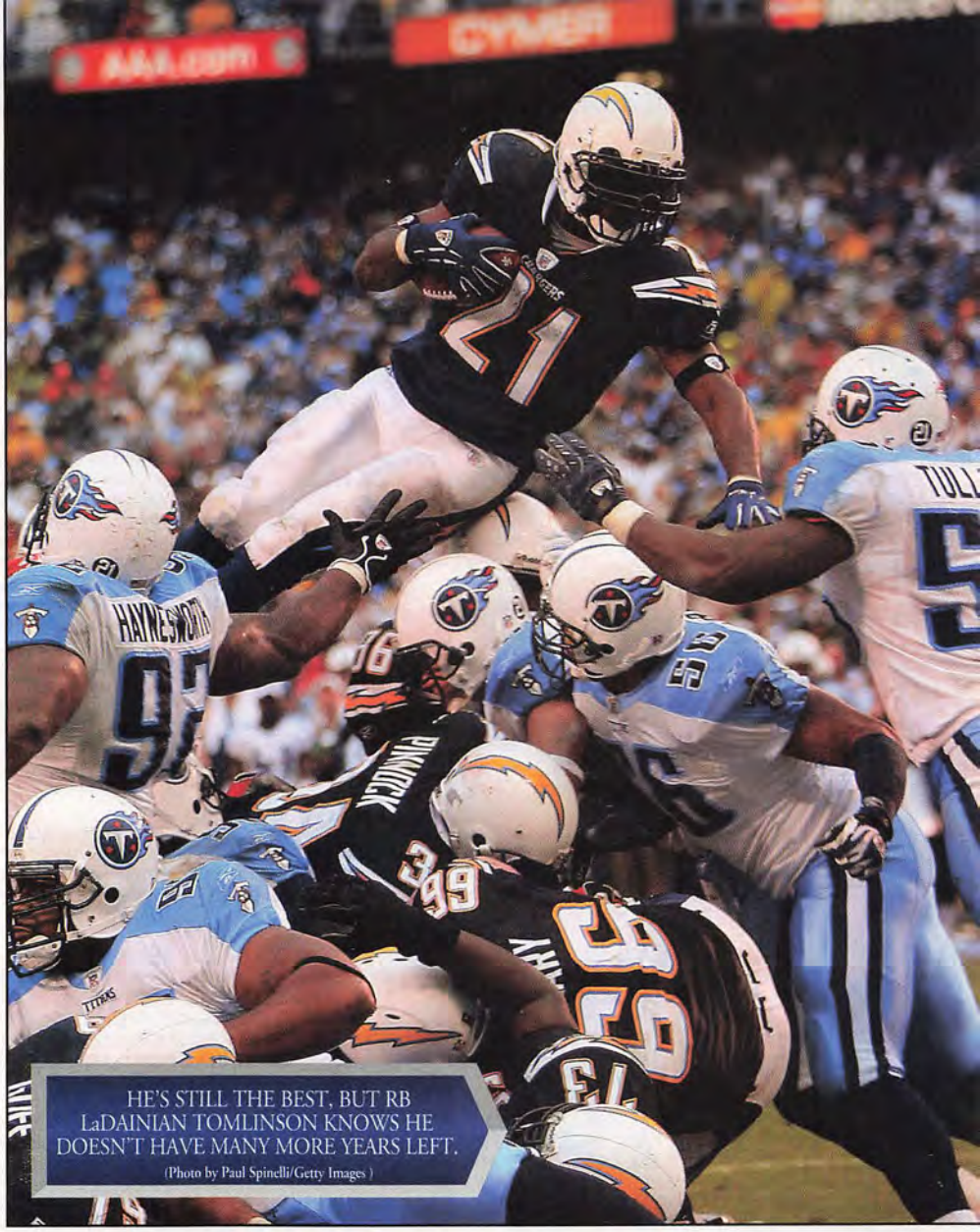
Tomlinson is at or near the zenith of a career that will land him in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Tomlinson is gunning for his third straight rushing crown — he rushed for 1,474 yards and scored 18 touchdowns in '07 — and shows no signs of the knee injury that kept him from contributing in the conference title game in New England. Tomlinson is seventh in the NFL all-time with 129 touchdowns and 18th on the all-time rushing list. He will continue to climb those charts with what should be another standout season. Rookie Jacob Hester and the shifty Darren Sproles are being asked to replace Michael Turner, Tomlinson's sturdy backup who left for Atlanta.

RATING: 10

RECEIVERS

Tight end Antonio Gates was long the main target for the passing attack — and for good reason. But the Pro Bowler got a nice complement in Chris Chambers, the reliable wide receiver who came over midway through last season in a trade. Gates, a dynamite red-zone option, must prove his troublesome toe that required off-season surgery is healed. Chambers, who was 30 receiving yards shy of a 1,000-yard season, should only blossom in the offense as he becomes more in tune with Rivers. Vincent Jackson, the No. 1 wideout before Chambers' arrival, saw his game grow with defenses paying close attention to Chambers and Gates. Craig Davis was OK in his rookie year; the club expects more. This unit could get a boost if Eric Parker returns after being injured all of last year.

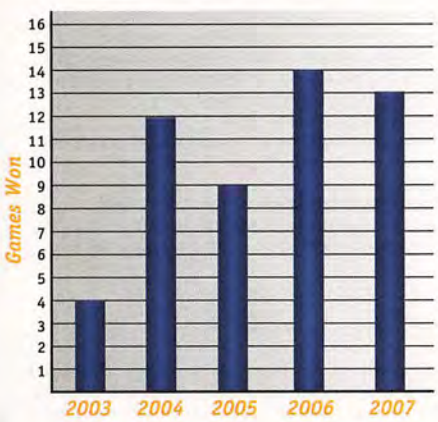
RATING: 8



HE'S STILL THE BEST, BUT RB LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON KNOWS HE DOESN'T HAVE MANY MORE YEARS LEFT.

(Photo by Paul Spinelli/Getty Images)

WINS PER YEAR



** Made Playoffs: 2004, 2006, 2007*

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Every Turner offense leans on a beefy front line and this one is no exception. But while guards Kris Dielman and Mike Goff are fine, there are questions along the front. Left tackle Marcus McNeill made his second Pro Bowl, but his play dropped from his rookie year. Jeromey Clary, the right tackle, has six NFL starts. Center Nick Hardwick, a former Pro Bowler, will likely miss an early portion of the season with a foot injury. The team did add veteran swing tackle L.J. Shelton to push Clary for a starting job and supply depth on both sides.

RATING: 7

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Defensive tackle Jamal Williams anchors the 3-4 and he's why it is so successful. He can seldom be blocked by one player, which opens tackling lanes for the inside linebackers. But Williams is entering his 11th season, and the sands of time are starting to catch up with him. With his balky knees, Williams playing in all 16 games might be a reach — but he is a stud. Luis Castillo and Igor Olshansky are forces on the edge; Castillo more on the pass rush, Olshansky on the run. Castillo has to stay on the field as injuries have derailed him the past two season. Jacques Cesaire at end and Ryon Bingham at tackle are regulars in the line's rotation and their contributions are significant.

RATING: 8

LINEBACKERS

Living on the edge is what this unit does, and why not? Shawne Merriman is among the few players who can change a game with his pass-rushing skills and Shaun Phillips shows a burst off the line that is second to none — they combined for 21 sacks last year. The inside play of Stephen Cooper

Chargers Pre-Camp Roster

NO.	NAME	HT.	WT.	EXP	COLLEGE	GAMES	HOW ACQ.	ENTRY	COMMENT
RECEIVERS									
89	**Chambers, Chris**	**5-11**	**210**	**8**	**Wisconsin**	**16/12**	**T,MIA 07**	**D2 MIA 01**	**Pickup from last season has quickly become a Rivers favorite with his dependable routes.**
87	Chandler, Scott (TE)	6-7	265	2	Iowa	1/0	D4 07	D4 SD 07	With the Chargers' numbers at this position, he seldom sees the field.
84	Davis, Buster	6-1	202	2	Louisiana State	14/1	D1 07	D1 SD 07	Wants to be known as "Buster," team hopes he's not a first-round bust.
80	Floyd, Malcom	6-5	225	3	Wyoming	6/1	FA 05	CFA SD 04	Time is running short for him to make a significant contribution.
85	**Gates, Antonio (TE)**	**6-4**	**260**	**6**	**Kent State**	**16/16**	**CFA 03**	**CFA SD 03**	**Looking for a different kind of rebound this season after serious toe injury late last year.**
83	**Jackson, Vincent**	**6-5**	**241**	**4**	**Northern Colorado**	**16/16**	**D2 05**	**D2 SD 05**	**The addition of Chambers was a big key for Jackson's playing well down the stretch in '07.**
86	**Manumaleuna, Brandon (TE)**	**6-2**	**288**	**8**	**Arizona**	**16/12**	**T,STL 06**	**D4 STL 01**	**An offensive lineman disguised in a pass-catcher's body. He's paid to block, but has some decent hands.**
11	Naanee, Legedu	6-2	226	2	Boise State	13/0	D5 07	D5 SD 07	Versatile, athletic player intrigues the coaches as he can play numerous positions well.
81	Osgood, Kassim	6-5	220	6	San Diego State	16/0	CFA 03	CFA SD 03	Two-time Pro Bowl special-teams player is complaining about not playing wideout. Those pleas fall on deaf ears.
88	*Parker, Eric	6-0	180	7	Tennessee	0/0	FA 02	CFA HOUS 02	Was a key player until a toe injury kept him on the sideline all of last year. Has to prove he's fit.
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN									
75	Clark, Corey (T)	6-5	305	R	Texas A&M	0/0	D7 08	D7 SD 08	Seventh-round pick could be headed to the practice squad; team needs depth at tackle.
66	**Clary, Jeromey (T)**	**6-6**	**306**	**2**	**Kansas State**	**16/6**	**FA 07**	**D6 SD 06**	**Came on last year to win the starting job. But he might be looking over his shoulder with the addition of Shelton.**
68	**Dielman, Kris (G)**	**6-4**	**310**	**6**	**Indiana**	**16/16**	**FA 03**	**CFA SD 03**	**One of the nastiest blockers in the NFL and backs down to no one. Always plays to the echo of the whistle.**
79	**Goff, Mike (G)**	**6-5**	**311**	**11**	**Iowa**	**16/16**	**UFA,CIN 04**	**D3 CIN 98**	**Veteran right guard is the old sage of this unit. Seldom missed a practice or game with a high tolerance for pain.**
61	**Hardwick, Nick (C)**	**6-4**	**295**	**5**	**Purdue**	**12/12**	**D3 04**	**D3 SD 04**	**Foot surgery was delayed too far into the offseason and that could keep him out for the season's early stages.**
73	**McNeill, Marcus (T)**	**6-7**	**336**	**3**	**Auburn**	**16/16**	**D2 06**	**D2 SD 06**	**Made it to his second Pro Bowl in as many NFL seasons. But his play was spotty early on before he rallied late.**
63	Mruczkowski, Scott (C/G)	6-5	318	4	Bowling Green	15/0	D7 05	D7 SD 05	Team thinks enough about him that they extended his contract over the offseason. He can play anywhere inside.
70	Shelton, L.J. (T)	6-6	345	10	Eastern Michigan	16/16	FA 08	D1 ARIZ 99	After not getting the tackle they wanted in the draft, team turned to 10-year pro to push Clary for starting job.
65	Withrow, Cory (C)	6-2	287	9	Washington State	13/4	FA 06	CFA MINN 98	His role could be huge in the season's first month if Hardwick suffers setbacks with his foot injury.
RUNNING BACKS									
22	Hester, Jacob	5-11	225	R	Louisiana State	0/0	D3 08	D3 SD 08	With Michael Turner gone to Atlanta, Chargers draft Tomlinson's backup — can also play fullback.
34	Pinnock, Andrew (FB)	5-10	250	6	South Carolina	10/3	D7 03	D7 SD 03	Listed as a fullback, but can run the ball occasionally. He could see more playing time this year with Lorenzo Neal not returning.
16	*Race, Germaine	5-10	218	2	Pittsburg State	0/0	CFA 07	CFA SD 07	Team must not think much about him as he wears No. 16 — Ryan Leaf's old digit.
43	Sproles, Darren (KR)	5-6	181	4	Kansas	15/0	D4 05	D4 SD 05	A dynamite kick and punt returner as long as his body holds up to the punishment. Also can be used on gadget plays.
25	Thomas, Marcus	6-0	215	R	Texas-El Paso	0/0	D5 08	D5 SD 08	Getting drafted by the Chargers likely doesn't work in his favor. Might make practice squad.
21	**Tomlinson, LaDainian**	**5-10**	**221**	**8**	**Texas Christian**	**16/16**	**D1 01**	**D1 SD 01**	**If he's not the NFL's best back, he's high on a list which doesn't run very deep — his Hall of Fame ticket is already punched.**
QUARTERBACKS									
8	Bramlet, Casey	6-4	220	2	Wyoming	0/0	W,MIA 08	D7 CIN 04	Brought in for another camp arm and isn't expected to make the regular season roster.
17	**Rivers, Philip**	**6-5**	**228**	**5**	**North Carolina State**	**16/16**	**T,NYG 04**	**D1 NYG 04**	**Looks to be ready to start the season after having his torn ACL repaired in the offseason.**
7	Volek, Billy	6-2	214	9	Fresno State	5/0	T,TENN 07	CFA TENN 00	Could have left the team as a free agent to try and start, but decided to stick around for a potential Super Bowl run.
6	Whitehurst, Charlie	6-4	227	3	Clemson	0/0	D3 06	D3 SD 06	Coaches remain high on Whitehurst, but his development is coming slow with Rivers and Volek above him.
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN									
97	Bingham, Ryon (NT)	6-3	303	3	Nebraska	16/2	FA 05	D7 SD 04	Valuable backup that could see additional playing time this year depending on the health of Williams' knees.
93	**Castillo, Luis (E)**	**6-3**	**290**	**3**	**Northwestern**	**10/9**	**D1 05**	**D1 SD 05**	**Could blossom into a star if he could stay on the field. His quickness and agility belies his massive frame.**
74	Cesaire, Jacques (E)	6-2	295	5	So. Connecticut State	16/6	CFA 03	CFA SD 03	He keeps the other players fresh, but he can be a force in pass-rushing as well? Good locker-room guy, too.
91	McKinney, Brandon (NT)	6-2	324	2	Michigan State	14/2	FA 06	CFA SD 06	Started two games last year when Williams was down; probably makes the team again this year.
99	**Olshansky, Igor (E)**	**6-6**	**309**	**4**	**Oregon**	**16/16**	**D2 04**	**D2 SD 04**	**Was known as a run-stuffer, but is starting to show some quickness off the line in the rare passing downs he plays on.**
76	**Williams, Jamal (NT)**	**6-3**	**348**	**10**	**Oklahoma State**	**13/13**	**SD2 98**	**SD2 SD 98**	**Few defenders can take up the space he does, with the strength to go with it. He's the key to the defense's success.**
LINEBACKERS									
54	**Cooper, Stephen (I)**	**6-1**	**235**	**6**	**Maine**	**16/16**	**CFA 03**	**CFA SD 03**	**Team's leading tackler in '07 will miss the season's first quarter with a suspension.**
51	Dobbins, Tim (I)	6-1	246	3	Iowa State	16/0	D5 06	D5 SD 06	Stock took a bit of a hit last year when he was exposed when trying to sub for Wilhelm; hard-nosed on special teams.
92	Harris, Marques (O)	6-1	231	3	Southern Utah State	15/2	CFA 05	CFA SD 05	Gets to play on passing downs and is quick off the edge. Saw action in 15 games and had 19 tackles.
56	**Merriman, Shawne (O)**	**6-4**	**272**	**4**	**Maryland**	**15/15**	**D1 05**	**D1 SD 05**	**Offenses have to scheme to keep him out of their quarterback's pocket. This motor knows but one speed.**
95	**Phillips, Shaun (O)**	**6-3**	**262**	**5**	**Purdue**	**15/15**	**D4 04**	**D4 SD 04**	**The spotlight usually finds Merriman, but don't overlook Phillips. Few can match his first step off the line; had 8.5 sacks last year.**
52	*Polk, Carlos (O)	6-2	262	8	Nebraska	10/2	D4 01	D4 SD 01	Supplies depth, but is mostly used on special teams. He plays with an edge and enthusiasm that can't be ignored.
59	Siler, Brandon (I)	6-2	239	2	Florida	15/0	D7 07	D7 SD 07	Trying to take that next step of contributing on special teams to playing in the base defense. Team likes his attitude.
58	Smith, Derek (I)	6-2	240	12	Arizona State	15/14	FA 08	D3 WSH 97	His arrival from 49ers looks like a godsend after Cooper was slapped with his four-game suspension.
94	Tucker, Jyles (O)	6-3	258	2	Wake Forest	6/0	FA 07	CFA SD 07	Undrafted free agent was a surprise to make the team; even bigger surprise was his three sacks in one game.
53	Waters, Anthony (I)	6-3	238	2	Clemson	0/0	D3 07	D3 SD 07	Rookie year saw him go inactive for 16 games as he tried to get his rebuilt knee right. Could be a special-teamer.
57	**Wilhelm, Matt (I)**	**6-4**	**245**	**6**	**Ohio State**	**14/14**	**D4 03**	**D4 SD 03**	**Heady player is seldom out of position or blowing an assignment. Held up well in his first year as a starter.**
DEFENSIVE BACKS									
20	Cason, Antoine (CB)	6-0	190	R	Arizona	0/0	D1 08	D1 SD 08	The Jim Thorpe Award winner has a real chance to be the team's nickel back in his rookie season.
31	**Cromartie, Antonio (CB)**	**6-2**	**203**	**3**	**Florida State**	**16/8**	**D1 06**	**D1 SD 06**	**A star was born the night he intercepted Peyton Manning three times in a Monday night game.**
24	Gordon, Cletis (CB)	6-1	197	3	Jackson State	14/0	CFA 06	CFA SD 06	Coaches hope he pushes Cason for the nickel spot; played in 14 games last year, but mostly on special teams.
28	Gregory, Steve (CB)	5-11	185	3	Syracuse	16/0	FA 06	CFA SD 06	Might need a solid preseason to make the team with the addition of Cason and Oliver the past two years.
42	**Hart, Clinton (S)**	**6-0**	**205**	**6**	**Central Florida CC**	**16/16**	**W,PHA 04**	**CFA PHA 02**	**Was rewarded with a contract extension after setting career highs in tackles and interceptions in first year as a starter.**
23	**Jammer, Quentin (CB)**	**6-0**	**204**	**7**	**Texas**	**15/14**	**D1 02**	**D1 SD 02**	**Physical, strong corner who relies on his strength as much as his speed. Not shy about contributing in run support.**
27	Oliver, Paul (CB)	5-10	195	2	Georgia	0/0	SD4 07	SD4 SD 07	Team burned a supplemental draft pick on him in '07, but he never got on the field his rookie season.
29	Tribble, DeJuan (CB)	5-9	190	R	Boston College	0/0	D6 08	D6 SD 08	Team likes its DBs bigger, but it was intrigued by his speed and potential as a returner.
32	**Weddle, Eric (S)**	**5-11**	**200**	**2**	**Utah**	**15/0**	**D2 07**	**D2 SD 07**	**Team decided to let Marlon McCree leave so Weddle could become a starter in his second season — a real ball-hawk.**
SPECIALISTS									
50	Binn, David (LS)	6-3	223	15	California	16/0	CFA 94	CFA SD 94	Team has counted one bad snap in his NFL career. That is why he's entering his 15th season, all with San Diego.
10	Kaeding, Nate (K)	6-0	187	5	Iowa	16/0	D3 04	D3 SD 04	Showed some grit when kicking with a broken plant leg down the stretch. He's pretty solid, although kickoffs can be short.
5	Scifres, Mike (P)	6-2	236	6	Western Illinois	16/0	D5 03	D5 SD 03	Can boom with the best of them, but it's his accuracy which separates him from others. His reverse spin is a thing of beauty.

*Ended 2007 season on reserve.

Games are games played/games started in 2006. For How Acq.: D=Draft; SD=Supplemental Draft; T=Trade; W=Waivers; FA=Free Agent; CFA=College Free Agent; UFA=Unrestricted Free Agent; TFA=Transition Free Agent; RFA=Restricted Free Agent.

Other free agents in camp (1 indicates player in previous NFL camp): WRs Gary Banks (Troy), Greg Bracey (Missouri), Brandon Jackson (North Texas), Billy Pittman (Texas); TEs Wade Betschart (Wyoming), John Tereshinski (Wake Forest); OTs Tyler Luellen (Missouri), Tony Pape (1, Michigan); OGs Brandyn Dombrowski (San Diego State), Charles Manu (Nevada), Erik Robertson (1, California); RB Eldra Buckley (1, Tennessee-Chattanooga); FB Mike Tolbert (Coastal Carolina); DEs Andre Coleman (1, Albany, N.Y.), Keith Grennan (1, Eastern Washington); NTs Lamar Divens (Tennessee State), Keith Jackson (1, Arkansas), Keith Shologan (UCF); LBs Antwan Applewhite (1, San Diego State), Eric Bakhtiari (San Diego), Terna Nande (1, Miami, Ohio); CBs Josh Bell (Baylor), Stanley Franks (Idaho); Ss Tra Battle (1, Georgia), Brian Bonner (Texas Christian); P Billy Vinnedge (Wyoming).

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. Philip Rivers is confident he can quickly return to form after having his knee rebuilt in the off-season. Rivers didn't leave the pocket much before the surgery, but what happens when the knee absorbs a hit?
2. LaDainian Tomlinson enters the season ticked off. He was hammered by the national media for not pushing his sprained knee in the AFC Championship Game loss in New England. The image of Tomlinson sitting on the bench with his helmet on and eyes hidden by his dark visor is a picture some can't erase. But Tomlinson had played with injuries when the stakes were a lot lower.
3. Tackle Jamal Williams' impact on the 3-4 defense can't be overstated and that's why if his age and injuries arise it could be difficult for the unit to adjust. Williams' play is what makes stars out of the team's linebackers as rival offensive lines have to commit two players to block the massive Williams.

ON THE HOT SEAT

Norv Turner

Turner is confident he's the coach to take the Chargers to the Super Bowl. If so, it's a goal that is expected to be reached instead of a grandiose dream of players and fans.

Turner does have some equity in that he came in under difficult circumstances last year when team president Dean Spanos grew weary of the dysfunctional relationship between coach Marty Schottenheimer and general manager A. J. Smith. Turner's hiring turned out to be a blessing, as his even demeanor was perfect when the team lost three of its first four games.

But an organization that once hoped for .500 seasons and not being embarrassed on Sundays has raised the bar considerably. And while Turner won't necessarily be coaching for his job this year, he is expected to make another deep run in the postseason, with the Super Bowl being the only destination that will please the Chargers' brass and its fans.

The naysayers love to point out that Turner's career mark of 72-89-1 is not the stuff of Super Bowl coaches. And if the Chargers should stumble again early — or their various injured players are slow in returning — Turner will again draw the spotlight as why the team isn't doing well.

and Matt Wilhelm was solid, despite both players starting for the first time. Cooper is suspended the first four games for violating the NFL's policy on performance enhancing drugs. Veteran Derek Smith will replace Cooper, the Chargers' leading tackler last season with 179, and the team isn't anticipating much of a drop-off. Keep an eye on backups Marques Harris and Jyles Tucker on passing downs — both can get after the quarterback.

RATING: 9

SECONDARY

Cornerback Antonio Cromartie emerged as a star with his league-high 10 interceptions and by scoring three touchdowns in three different ways: fumble recovery, interception return, returned failed field goal for 109 yards. He's good and should only get better with a work ethic that matches his athletic skills. Quentin Jammer starts opposite Cromartie and is a force not only in pass coverage, but by lending a hand in run support. With rookie Antoine Cason expected to earn the nickel role, the Chargers' top three cornerbacks will be first-round draftees. Second-year pro Eric Weddle replaces Marlon McCree at free safety and Clinton Hart looks to build on his solid first year as a starter at strong safety. Weddle played well last year in spot play.

RATING: 7

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mike Scifres continues to be the NFL's best punter not to make the Pro Bowl, as his net average is always among the league leaders and his accuracy is such that he seldom produces touchbacks. Kicker Nate Kaeding missed on all but five field-goal chances and was four-for-four in frigid New England in the conference title game. Darren Sproles is a force returning kickoffs and punts; he had two scoring returns in one game last season. Kassim Osgood was the AFC's Pro Bowl special-teams player for the second straight season. David Binn is in his 15th year as the team's long-snapper.

RATING: 8

INTANGIBLES

The Chargers exorcised many postseason demons by winning three games in the 2007 playoffs — that broke a three-game playoff losing streak. The confidence gained in how the Chargers performed when the stakes were the highest will bode well as they try to reach their second Super Bowl in franchise history. There's also a sense of urgency here that the window of opportunity could be closing with each carry Tomlinson makes. He's still likely the NFL's premier back, but the Chargers know he won't be back there forever. The Chargers also need a strong season to solidify their push for a new stadium in San Diego.

RATING: Plus 2

—Jay Paris

2007 RESULTS

Record: 13-6

Sep. 9	CHICAGO	14- 3
Sep. 16	at New England	14-38
Sep. 23	at Green Bay	24-31
Sep. 30	KANSAS CITY	16-30
Oct. 7	at Denver	41- 3
Oct. 14	OAKLAND	28-14
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	HOUSTON	35-10
Nov. 4	at Minnesota	17-35
Nov. 11	INDIANAPOLIS	23-21
Nov. 18	at Jacksonville	17-24
Nov. 25	BALTIMORE	32-14
Dec. 2	at Kansas City	24-10
Dec. 9	at Tennessee (OT)	23-17
Dec. 16	DETROIT	51-14
Dec. 24	DENVER (Mon.)	23- 3
Dec. 30	at Oakland	30-17
Jan. 6	TENNESSEE	17- 6
Jan. 13	at Indianapolis	28-24
Jan. 20	at New England	12-21

SCHEDULE

All times local

Aug. 9	DALLAS (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 16	at St. Louis (Sat.)	7:00
Aug. 25	SEATTLE (Mon.)	5:00
Aug. 29	at San Francisco (Fri.)	7:00
Sep. 7	CAROLINA	1:15
Sep. 14	at Denver	2:15
Sep. 22	N.Y. JETS (Mon)	5:30
Sep. 28	at Oakland	1:05
Oct. 5	at Miami	1:00
Oct. 12	NEW ENGLAND	5:15
Oct. 19	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct. 26	at New Orleans (London)	5:00
Nov. 2	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 9	KANSAS CITY	1:15
Nov. 16	at Pittsburgh	4:15
Nov. 23	INDIANAPOLIS	5:15
Nov. 30	ATLANTA	1:05
Dec. 4	OAKLAND (Thu.)	5:15
Dec. 14	at Kansas City	12:00
Dec. 21	at Tampa Bay	8:15
Dec. 28	DENVER	1:15

KEEPING THE *faith*

BY HOWARD BALZER

WAR VETERAN SERVES TO INSPIRE GIANTS

The Super Bowl seems like a distant memory, but this year's game just won't escape my memory, and it's not just for what the Giants did on the field. Every day, I think not only of what the Giants did as a group, but of what a man in a wheelchair meant to this team.

Every day, I can still see him in the Giants' locker room, with a smile on his face that was heartwarming to see.

This is a story everyone should know ...

On the night of May 7, 2007, thousands of miles away in Baghdad, a lieutenant colonel named Greg Gadson lost both his legs to a roadside bomb. Little did he know (how could he know?) that some 38 weeks later, he would be on the Giants' sideline for one of the greatest upsets in Super Bowl history.

The story begins shortly after he returned to the states, but actually goes back to his playing days at West Point in the late 1980s where one of his teammates was Giants receivers coach Mike Sullivan. After Sullivan and other former teammates learned what happened to their old friend, he visited Gadson at Walter Reed Hospital and presented him with a Giants jersey No. 98 (his old number), signed by several players.

Photo By: Ben Boyd

Greg Gadson being interviewed by Howard Balzer.

When Sullivan asked if there was anything else he could do, Gadson wondered whether he could attend a Giants game with his family.

So it was arranged that Gadson, who lives in Virginia, would attend the team's game in Washington on Sept. 23. The Giants were 0-2, and their defense had allowed 80 points. Sullivan asked if Gadson would be interested in talking to the team the night before.

No player will ever forget that night, as Gadson rolled his wheelchair to the front of the room.

Said guard Rich Seubert, "I remember that meeting like it was yesterday. He talked about the importance of sticking together as a team, that you're going to have some tough times, but you have to just battle your way through it. He talked about fighting for every yard."

Recalled Gadson, "I just spoke from the heart, as a soldier and as a former football player for about 10 or 15 minutes. I talked to them about appreciating the opportunities in their lives, how special and privileged they were, how everybody needs to understand what they truly have. And I talked to them about the power of sports in people's lives, especially soldiers' lives, how many times I'd watched soldiers get up in the middle of the night after a 12-hour shift if there is a chance to watch a game, or how soldiers would do anything to watch a game before they went on that kind of shift.

"I told them that of course after all the exteriors had been stripped away, they played the game for themselves. But that they had to play the game for each other. Then I talked about myself, how my old teammates came to my need, and how I was reminded again the power of a team, the emotional commitment teammates have for each other, that when a team finds a way to do things greater than they thought they could do, that they couldn't have done individually, that a bond is formed that can live forever.

"I told them that truly great teams usually form that bond by going through something together, and how whatever they were going through at that point in the season that no success ever came easy. And finally I reminded them that nothing is promised to anybody in this life, starting with tomorrow."

Tomorrow turned out to be a glimpse of the future. The Giants fell behind 17-3 at halftime, took a 24-17 lead and then stopped the Redskins on a goal-line stand in the final seconds. They would not lose again away from home all season. Soldiers sure know about being away from home.

After wide receiver Plaxico Burress scored a touchdown with 5:32 remaining in that game, he gave the ball to Lt. Col. Greg Gadson on the sideline.

"You see a guy go through the things that he has been through and he is in such good spirits," Burress said. "It was just unbelievable to come across a person like that who went through a tremendous change in his life. I have never met somebody like that who had a high spirit like nothing was wrong and I was like, 'Wow. I have a little ankle injury, I have to go out here and give it my best.' I tried to go out and play, not thinking about it and all I thought about when I scored that touchdown was that I wanted to find him to give him that football."

How fitting it was that Burress scored

the winning touchdown in the Super Bowl, as he still battled that ankle injury as well as a knee he had hurt falling in the shower earlier that week.

For the NFC Championship Game, Gadson was in Green Bay on the sideline and on the field before the game as an honorary captain. There was no question he would be in Arizona, and that he would talk to the team again one night before the biggest game of their lives.

"I talked to them as a teammate this time instead of as an outsider," Gadson said in the victorious locker room. "I said several things and most important I said I'd take all these guys with me to combat. They're a tremendous group of men and I'm proud to be associated with them.

"I'm really proud for this team. They worked hard and epitomized what teamwork can accomplish."

He talked as players approached him one by one and they exchanged hugs. He reflected on how special it was to be considered a teammate.

"That's the best part of it," Gadson said. " A guy they didn't know five months ago that is now someone they call a teammate is pretty special. I've earned their respect and trust."

After the win over the Packers, cornerback Corey Webster, who had the interception in overtime that led to the winning field goal, gave the ball to Gadson. Holding that ball afterward, Gadson said, "I've been able to draw strength from my newfound family with the Giants. The inspiration goes both ways."

Said coach Tom Coughlin after the Super Bowl, "He has been a tremendous part of our team from the first time he spoke to us. He's grown to really be a member of this team and he feels very strongly about that. He's just such a tremendous inspiration, an example to all because of what he represents. Here's a guy who sacrificed tremendously for all of us so we can sleep under the blanket of freedom.

"He's a real hero. He's a real human being that's paid the price. He played football at West Point so he has all the concepts of being a player, being in a leadership role in the military, being responsible for people in combat. He calls upon those experiences when he talks to our team and he has been a guy that our players have really, really become attached to."

As fullback Madison Hedgecock concluded, "I'm just glad that he's a part of this and able to share this moment with us. To sacrifice his legs in war the way he did ... that's the ultimate sacrifice. It makes this look small. He's a real hero."

Photo By: Ben Boyd

Greg Gadson with son Jaelen after the Super Bowl.

It turns out Gadson wasn't the only military person with West Point connections that had a relationship with the Giants.

This past off-season, Lt. General Ray Odierno and his son Tony spent a day with the team and had photos taken with the Vince Lombardi Trophy. Odierno has been to the team's practices before and often communicates with Coughlin.

He talked about the lift soldiers receive from being able to watch NFL games.

"Throughout the week during the football season, everybody talks relentlessly about their favorite team and what it means to them," Odierno said. "It is something that takes their minds off many of the tough situations that they are in with their love for their team, their love for their individual player on that team, and the banter that goes on between individuals really releases a lot of the pressure that is on a lot of our great soldiers and Marines while they are deployed. The NFL plays a huge role in that."

Relating the military to football, he said, "To get anything done in the military you have to work together. It is not a game of one individual doing it, it is about team, it is about having total dependence on the person to your right, the person to your left, the person behind you, the person in front of you, and it is life and death. Football is the same way. To be successful in football it is not an individual game. You have to be totally dependent on and understand completely that person next to you who is going to help you be successful. I think football and the military parallel each other a lot, even in the strategy: air game, ground game, mixture of both, how do you mix it up, how do you get effects, it is all very common. It is also about sacrifice and leadership. It is all the same things."

Asked about Gadson, Odierno had a surge of pride, saying, "I know Greg Gadson very well. Greg Gadson was a Battalion Commander in Iraq, so obviously he worked for me there. I remember the day he was injured. I have talked to him since he was injured, so I absolutely followed it. First of all, Greg Gadson is an extraordinary human being, an extraordinary leader, was as a Battalion Commander and still is today. I did read about (Gadson's role with the team) and I wrote both (owner) John Mara and coach Coughlin, thanking them. And they thanked me back because of everything Greg did for them."

Just as Gadson is grateful for what the team did for him. ■

FANTASY FOOTBALL Guide

Top Players and the Numbers

By Jim Donaldson

Best of the Bunch

The top bananas at each position

RB LaDainian Tomlinson, San Diego: As former teammate Lorenzo Neal so accurately says, "He's Superman, without the cape."

QB Tom Brady, New England: Finally given top-quality receivers, Brady set an NFL record by throwing 50 touchdown passes.

WR Randy Moss, New England: Almost half of Brady's touchdown tosses — 23, to be exact — went to Moss, who broke Jerry Rice's league record for scoring receptions in a season.

TE Antonio Gates, San Diego: Turned out to be pretty good for a guy who played basketball in college (Kent State) instead of football.

K Rob Bironas, Tennessee: A clutch kicker whose 133 points last season ranked third among NFL booters and included four (of five) field goals of 50-plus yards.

Catch a Rising Star

Here are a dozen rookies that went high on daft day. Some of them also should go high in your fantasy draft.

1. **Darren McFadden, RB, Oakland:** Two-time, runner-up for the Heisman Trophy is the most likely rookie to make a significant impact this season.
2. **Jonathan Stewart, RB, Carolina:** Standout from Oregon should get a chance to show what he can do in Carolina.
3. **Matt Ryan, QB, Atlanta:** Don't expect former BC Eagle to get off to a flying start with weak Falcons.
4. **Felix Jones, RB, Dallas:** McFadden's highly productive running mate at Arkansas, he'll provide speed to complement Marion Barber's power.
5. **Chris Johnson, RB, Tennessee:** Similarly, speedy Johnson can be a breakaway back for Titans, who featured bruising LenDale White last season. He's also a receiving threat.
6. **Donnie Avery, WR, St. Louis:** Has blazing speed and will get to show it for the Rams.
7. **James Hardy, WR, Buffalo:** At 6-6, this former high school hoops star can go up and get the ball in the end zone.
8. **Eddie Royal, WR, Denver:** Could ride high with Broncos. Also dangerous as a return man.

9a. **Devin Thomas, WR, Washington:** The Redskins will give him a chance to get on the field.

9b. **Malcolm Kelly, WR, Washington:** Ditto.

10. **Chad Henne, QB, Miami:** Dolphins made his left tackle at Michigan, Jake Long, the first pick in the draft. Long will play right away, Henne won't.
11. **Joe Flacco, QB, Baltimore:** Big arm from a small school.
12. **John Carlson, TE, Seattle:** Could thrive for Seahawks in offensively-oriented coach Mike Holmgren's system.

Good Hands People

Patterns are important when you're talking about receivers. Some of these wideouts are set to "post" big numbers. Others are headed "down-and-out."

Guys with upside

1. **Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis:** He's become Peyton's main man.
2. **Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona:** He's been a touchdown machine since his college days at Pitt.
3. **Plaxico Burress, N.Y. Giants:** His last catch was for the winning touchdown in Super Bowl XLII.
4. **Marques Colston, New Orleans:** A seventh-round pick of the Saints in '06, he'll be a high choice in '08 fantasy drafts.
5. **Braylon Edwards, Cleveland:** Not expecting him to catch another 16 touchdowns in '08, but still should have a productive season.
6. **Wes Welker, New England:** Set a Patriots record last season with 112 catches, eight of them for touchdowns. Perfect complement to deep threat Randy Moss.
7. **Santonio Holmes, Pittsburgh:** Was NFL's top rookie receiver in '06; had eight touchdown catches last season.
8. **Andre Johnson, Houston:** With a better quarterback, on a better team, who knows how good this guy could be.
9. **Brandon Marshall, Denver:** Like young quarterback Jay Cutler, should continue to improve.
10. **Torry Holt, St. Louis:** Looking for him to bounce back from mildly disappointing '07 season in which he still scored seven touchdowns.
11. **Anquan Boldin, Arizona:** Consistently productive for the Cardinals.
12. **Steve Smith, Carolina:** Quarterback carousel in Carolina hurt him last season.

And guys on the downside

1. **Terrell Owens, Dallas:** Has been as productive as he's been talkative throughout colorful NFL career, but he's 34 now.
2. **Chad Johnson, Cincinnati:** Do you really want to take a chance on him?
3. **T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Cincinnati:** If Johnson's not there, his numbers will drop.
4. **Greg Jennings, Green Bay:** How much will he miss Brett Favre?
5. **Marvin Harrison, Indianapolis:** The best in the business for years, he played in only five games last season and now is 36 years old.

Just for Kicks

Annual reminder: Don't rush to pick a kicker. You can get a capable one in later rounds.

1. **Kris Brown, Houston:** He was 5-for-5 from 50-plus.
2. **Nick Folk, Dallas:** You know the Cowboys are going to put points on the board.
3. **Jason Hanson, Detroit:** Talk about long-suffering. This will be his 17th season with the Lions.
4. **Stephen Gostkowski, New England:** Had 137 points in second season with Patriots, who set NFL record last year by racking up 589 points.
5. **Mason Crosby, Green Bay:** League's scoring leader last year with 141 points, but expect that total to go down like the temperature in Green Bay in December.

Old Faces, New Places

Having moved to new teams, will these players move up, or down, your draft list?

1. **Michael Turner, RB, Atlanta:** Could shine, now that he's out of Tomlinson's shadow in San Diego.
2. **Josh Brown, K, St. Louis:** Had career-high 127 points for Seahawks last season.
3. **Jerry Porter, WR, Jacksonville:** If he could catch six touchdown passes for the Raiders, he ought to haul in at least that many for the Jags.
4. **Alge Crumpler, TE, Tennessee:** Good hands, bad knees. If he's healthy, he'll help the

Titans.

5. **Donte Stallworth, WR, Cleveland:** Third option for Pats' Brady last season. After Moss and Welker, the Browns are his fourth team in as many years.
6. **Jason Elam, K, Atlanta:** Likely to be kicking more field goals than extra points for offensively-challenged Falcons.
7. **Javon Walker, WR, Oakland:** Raiders paid way too much for oft-injured wideout. Don't you make the same mistake.
8. **Bernard Berrian, WR, Minnesota:** Goes from Rex Grossman in Chicago to Tarvaris Jackson with Vikes. Whoopee.
9. **Julius Jones, RB, Seattle:** Former Cowboy is no Shaun Alexander.
10. **T.J. Duckett, RB, Seattle:** And neither is this former Lion.
11. **Warrick Dunn, RB, Tampa Bay:** Returns to the team that drafted him. But that was in 1997.
12. **DeShaun Foster, RB, San Francisco:** Brought in to give Frank Gore a break, he's never had a 1,000-yard season.

Run to Daylight

Running backs rankings can vary, depending on the relative importance of points and yards in your fantasy league

1. **Adrian Peterson, Minnesota:** Durability was a question mark, but Vikings' first-round pick was spectacular, rushing for 1,341 yards and scoring 13 touchdowns.
2. **Joseph Addai, Indianapolis:** Add up the points if you add Addai to your fantasy roster.
3. **Brian Westbrook, Philadelphia:** Incredibly productive both as a runner and a receiver, Eagles star is the best back in the NFC.
4. **Clinton Portis, Washington:** Hail to this Redskin, who rushed for 1,262 yards and 11 touchdowns last season.
5. **Willie Parker, Pittsburgh:** Didn't get in the end zone very often, but he did gain a lot of yards (1,316.) Will score more this season.
6. **Larry Johnson, Kansas City:** Has a healthy contract. Now has to stay healthy.
7. **Steven Jackson, St. Louis:** Touchdowns plummeted from 16 to six last season. Looking for him to bounce back.
8. **Willis McGahee, Baltimore:** Going from Bills to Ravens was a good move.
9. **Marshawn Lynch, Buffalo:** Ran for 1,115 yards and seven touchdowns as a rookie.
10. **Maurice Jones-Drew, Jacksonville:** Little guy produces big numbers.
11. **Frank Gore, San Francisco:** Overachiever on underachieving 49ers.
12. **Marion Barber, Dallas:** Type of runner Ron Meyer used to refer to as "a rolling ball of butcher knives."
13. **Brandon Jacobs, N.Y. Giants:** Big back played big role in Giants' success.
14. **Ryan Grant, Green Bay:** Will he have to carry too much of the load now that Favre's gone?
15. **Jamal Lewis, Cleveland:** Has had a lot of good years, including '07, when he ran for 1,304 yards and scored 11 touchdowns. Not expecting this season to be that good.

The Arms Race

These are the guys who can make your fantasy season a dream ... or a nightmare

1. **Peyton Manning, Indianapolis:** Threw for 31 touchdowns in '06 and '07. Expect the same in '08.
2. **Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh:** Bounced back from poor season in '06 to throw for 32 touchdowns last year.
3. **Drew Brees, New Orleans:** Has averaged 27 touchdown passes in his two years with the Saints.
4. **Eli Manning, N.Y. Giants:** He was super in the Super Bowl.
5. **Tony Romo, Dallas:** Jessica Simpson isn't the concern; it's that both T.O. and Terry Glenn will be 34 this season.
6. **Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle:** Don't know if he'll top career-high of 28 touchdown passes set last year, but you've got to figure he'll be in the 20s.
7. **Philip Rivers, San Diego:** Has lots of weapons at his disposal.
8. **Jay Cutler, Denver:** Expecting continued improvement under Mike Shanahan's tutelage.
9. **Matt Leinart, Arizona:** Could be overlooked after being injured last year, but expect him to throw for at least 20 touchdowns if healthy in '08.
10. **Carson Palmer, Cincinnati:** Chad Johnson's situation will effect where you take this capable quarterback.
11. **David Garrard, Jacksonville:** Not as hyped as Vince Young, but more productive.
12. **Vince Young, Tennessee:** See above.
13. **Marc Bulger, St. Louis:** If Rams can protect him, he'll produce.
14. **Derek Anderson, Cleveland:** Came out of nowhere to throw for 29 touchdowns last season. Could do it again, but don't count on it.
15. **Jake Delhomme, Carolina:** Production has dropped every year since Super Bowl season in '04.
16. **Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia:** Has thrown for more than 19 touchdowns just once in last six seasons.
17. **Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay:** Not expecting him to put up Favre-like numbers.
18. **Jon Kitna, Detroit:** Throws too many interceptions, not enough touchdowns.
19. **Jason Campbell, Washington:** Redskins added young receivers in the draft.
20. **JaMarcus Russell, Oakland:** Just stay alive, baby.

Tight Ends Who Can Get Loose

1. **Dallas Clark, Indianapolis:** Peyton's "go-to" guy near the goal line.
2. **Jason Witten, Dallas:** How 'bout this Cowboy!
3. **Heath Miller, Pittsburgh:** Has averaged six touchdowns a season since drafted in first round in '05.
4. **Chris Cooley, Washington:** Another who consistently gets into the end zone, year after year.
5. **Kellen Winslow, Cleveland:** Look for him to keep getting better and better.
6. **Tony Gonzalez:** Once the best in the league, he's averaged just four touchdowns a season over the last three years.
7. **Leonard Pope, Arizona:** Could be a productive "sleeper" pick in a later round.
8. **Todd Heap, Baltimore:** Produces when healthy.
9. **Ben Watson, New England:** Coming off ankle surgery after six touchdown catches in '07.
10. **Jeremy Shockey, N.Y. Giants:** Subject of trade rumors at time of publication.

FANTASY STATS

Because Fantasy Football leagues play by a variety of rules, this statistical section provides information to fit most any system. The statistics are for the 2007 regular season. For touchdowns and field goals, the figure in parentheses is the total number; the figures following indicate the length of each score. For milestone games (100 yards rushing and receiving, 300 yards passing), the figure in parentheses is the total number of such efforts and the other numbers indicate each individual total. The team designation indicates where the player was in 2007. If there is a team in parentheses, that indicates the player's new team. If there is an X in parentheses, that player was released by his last team or not tendered a qualifying offer. If there is the abbreviation UFA in parentheses, that player is an unrestricted free agent.

Happy Drafting!

RUNNING BACKS

ADDAI, Indianapolis
TDs rushing (12) - 1, 2 (3), 3, 4 (2), 8 (2), 11, 12, 14
100-yard rushing games (4) - 100, 112, 118, 136
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 19, 73
100-yard receiving games (1) - 114

ALEXANDER, Seattle (X)
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 2 (2), 16
100-yard rushing games (2) - 100, 105
TDs receiving (1) - 14

ARRINGTON, Arizona
TDs receiving (1) - 4

BARBER, Dallas
TDs rushing (10) - 1 (4), 5 (2), 7, 18, 20, 40
100-yard rushing games (3) - 102, 103, 110
TDs receiving (2) - 8, 10

BATTLE, Kansas City
TDs rushing (1) - 3

BELL, Denver
TDs rushing (1) - 14

BENNETT, Kansas City/Tampa Bay
TDs rushing (1) - 19
TDs receiving (1) - 23

BENSON, Chicago
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 3, 10, 43
100-yard rushing games (1) - 101

BETTS, Washington
TDs rushing (1) - 14
TDs receiving (1) - 16

BRADSHAW, N.Y. Giants
TDs rushing (1) - 88
100-yard rushing games (1) - 151

BROWN, Miami
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 2, 3, 9
100-yard rushing games (4) - 101, 112, 114, 134
TDs receiving (1) - 22

BROWN, Tennessee (Houston)
TDs rushing (5) - 3, 4, 7 (2), 8
100-yard rushing games (1) - 175

BUCKHALTER, Philadelphia
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 8, 20, 30
100-yard rushing games (1) - 103

BUSH, New Orleans
TDs rushing (4) - 1 (3), 7
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 4

FANTASY FOOTBALL

CHATMAN, Miami (N.Y. Jets)
TDs rushing (1) - 7
100-yard rushing games (1) - 124

COBBS, Miami
TDs rushing (1) - 1

DAVENPORT, Pittsburgh
TDs rushing (5) - 1 (3), 5, 39
100-yard rushing games (1) - 123
TDs receiving (2) - 12, 32

DAWSON, Indianapolis
TDs rushing (1) - 4

DAYNE, Houston (UFA)
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (2), 2, 6, 12, 14
100-yard rushing games (1) - 122

DROUGHNS, N.Y. Giants
TDs rushing (6) - 1 (5), 2

DUCKETT, Detroit (Seattle)
TDs rushing (3) - 3, 11, 32
100-yard rushing games (1) - 102

DUNN, Atlanta (Tampa Bay)
TDs rushing (4) - 4, 5, 9, 30
100-yard rushing games (1) - 100

ECKEL, New England
TDs rushing (2) - 1 (2)

EVANS, New England
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (3)

FARGAS, Oakland
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 2, 5, 14
100-yard rushing games (4) - 104, 139, 146, 179

FAULK, New England
TDs receiving (1) - 13

FOSTER, Carolina (San Francisco)
TDs rushing (3) - 1, 3, 10
100-yard rushing games (1) - 122
TDs receiving (1) - 13

GADO, Houston/Miami (X)
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 7, 12, 20

GORE, San Francisco
TDs rushing (5) - 1, 6, 11, 35, 43
100-yard rushing games (2) - 116, 138
TDs receiving (1) - 23

GRAHAM, Tampa Bay
TDs rushing (10) - 1 (3), 2, 4, 8, 11, 25, 26, 28
100-yard rushing games (3) - 102, 106, 124

GRANT, Green Bay
TDs rushing (8) - 1 (2), 5, 6, 27, 30, 62, 66
100-yard rushing games (5) - 100, 101, 104, 119, 156

GREEN, Houston
TDs rushing (2) - 8, 13

GRIFFITH, Oakland
TDs receiving (1) - 7

HALL, Denver
TDs rushing (2) - 16, 62

HENRY, Denver
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 3, 4, 6
100-yard rushing games (3) - 128, 131, 139

HENRY, Tennessee
TDs rushing (2) - 4, 24

HICKS, San Francisco (Minnesota)
TDs rushing (1) - 9

HUNT, Philadelphia
TDs rushing (1) - 1

JACKSON, Buffalo
100-yard rushing games (1) - 115

JACKSON, Green Bay
TDs rushing (1) - 1
100-yard rushing games (1) - 113

JACKSON, St. Louis
TDs rushing (5) - 1, 2, 46, 50, 53
100-yard rushing games (2) - 115, 143
TDs receiving (1) - 12
TDs passing (1) - 2

JACOBS, N.Y. Giants
TDs rushing (4) - 5, 6, 19, 43
100-yard rushing games (5) - 100, 107, 130, 131, 143
TDs receiving (2) - 7, 10

JAMES, Arizona
TDs rushing (7) - 2 (2), 3 (2), 7, 17, 23
100-yard rushing games (3) - 102, 114, 128

J. JOHNSON, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (1) - 1

R. JOHNSON, Cincinnati
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (2), 5
100-yard rushing games (1) - 118
TDs receiving (1) - 13

JOHNSON, Kansas City
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (2), 8
100-yard rushing games (3) - 112, 119, 123
TDs receiving (1) - 30

JONES, Dallas (Seattle)
TDs rushing (2) - 2 (2)

JONES, Detroit (X)
TDs rushing (8) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 3, 4 (2), 5
100-yard rushing games (1) - 105

JONES, Jacksonville
TDs rushing (2) - 3, 4
TDs receiving (2) - 2 (2)

JONES, N.Y. Jets
TDs rushing (1) - 1
100-yard rushing games (4) - 106, 110, 117, 130
TDs receiving (1) - 15

JONES-DREW, Jacksonville
TDs rushing (9) - 1 (2), 2, 7, 8, 14, 17, 52, 57
100-yard rushing games (2) - 101, 125
TDs KOR (1) - 100

JORDAN, Oakland
TDs rushing (3) - 1, 5, 12
100-yard rushing games (2) - 121, 159

KARNEY, New Orleans
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 2

KEITH, Indianapolis
TDs rushing (3) - 1, 3, 7
100-yard rushing games (1) - 121
TDs receiving (1) - 7

LAWTON, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (1) - 1

LEACH, Houston
TDs rushing (1) - 1
TDs receiving (2) - 1 (2)

LEONARD, St. Louis
100-yard rushing games (1) - 102

LEWIS, Cleveland
TDs rushing (9) - 1 (5), 2 (2), 31, 66
100-yard rushing games (5) - 118, 128, 134, 163, 216
TDs receiving (2) - 6, 7

LYNCH, Buffalo
TDs rushing (7) - 1, 3 (2), 8, 10, 23, 56
100-yard rushing games (3) - 105, 107, 153
TDs passing (1) - 8

MARONEY, New England
TDs rushing (6) - 1, 4, 5, 6 (2), 59
100-yard rushing games (3) - 103, 104, 156

McCLAIN, Baltimore
TDs receiving (1) - 13

McGAHEE, Baltimore
TDs rushing (7) - 1 (2), 2, 6, 17, 33, 46
100-yard rushing games (5) - 102, 104 (2), 114, 138
TDs receiving (1) - 2

McKIE, Chicago
TDs rushing (1) - 1

MORRIS, New England
TDs rushing (3) - 3, 4, 7
100-yard rushing games (2) - 102, 117

MORRIS, Seattle
TDs rushing (4) - 6, 19, 29, 45
TDs receiving (1) - 34

MUGHELLI, Atlanta
TDs rushing (1) - 1

NEAL, San Diego (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 1

NORWOOD, Atlanta
TDs rushing (1) -

PARKER, Pittsburgh
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 11
100-yard rushing games (8) - 100, 102, 105, 109, 124, 126 (2), 133

PETERSON, Chicago
TDs rushing (3) - 4, 5, 8
100-yard rushing games (1) - 102
TDs passing (1) - 9

PETERSON, Minnesota
TDs rushing (12) - 1 (2), 8, 11, 13, 16, 20, 35, 46, 64, 67, 73
100-yard rushing games (6) - 102, 103, 112, 116, 224, 296
TDs receiving (1) - 60

PORTIS, Washington
TDs rushing (11) - 1 (4), 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 19, 23
100-yard rushing games (4) - 104, 126, 137, 196
TDs passing (1) - 15

RHODES, Oakland (Indianapolis)
TDs rushing (1) - 1
100-yard rushing games (2) - 115, 122

ROSS, Baltimore
TDs rushing (1) - 32

SAPP, Denver
TDs rushing (2) - 4, 5
TDs receiving (1) - 1

SELLERS, Washington
TDs rushing (2) - 1 (2)
TDs receiving (1) - 8

SHIPP, Arizona
TDs rushing (1) - 1

SMITH, Baltimore (UFA)
TDs rushing (2) - 2, 6

SMITH, Kansas City
TDs rushing (2) - 5, 10
100-yard rushing games (1) - 150

SNELLING, Atlanta
TDs rushing (1) - 1

SPROLES, San Diego
TDs rushing (2) - 1, 11
100-yard rushing games (1) - 122
TDs KOR (1) - 89
TDs PR (1) - 45

STECKER, New Orleans
TDs rushing (5) - 1 (2), 2, 3, 6
100-yard rushing games (1) - 100

TAYLOR, Jacksonville
TDs rushing (5) - 4, 12, 50, 62, 80
100-yard rushing games (5) - 104 (2), 111, 132, 147

TAYLOR, Minnesota
TDs rushing (7) - 2 (2), 6, 8, 10, 38, 84
100-yard rushing games (2) - 101, 164

THOMAS, Buffalo (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 10

THOMAS, New Orleans
TDs rushing (1) - 24
100-yard rushing games (1) - 105
TDs receiving (1) - 11
100-yard receiving games (1) - 121

TOEFIELD, Jacksonville (Carolina)
TDs rushing (1) - 1

TOMLINSON, San Diego
TDs rushing (15) - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (2), 7, 13, 16, 17, 27, 28, 31, 41
100-yard rushing games (6) - 107, 116, 132, 146, 177, 198
TDs receiving (3) - 7 (2), 21
TDs passing (1) - 17

TURNER, San Diego (Atlanta)
TDs rushing (1) - 74
100-yard rushing games (1) - 147

WALKER, Houston
TDs rushing (1) - 1

WARD, N.Y. Giants
TDs rushing (3) - 2, 8, 9
100-yard rushing games (1) - 154
TDs receiving (1) - 9

WASHINGTON, N.Y. Jets
TDs rushing (3) - 8, 12, 18
TDs KOR (3) - 86, 98 (2)

WATSON, Cincinnati
TDs rushing (7) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 3, 6, 8
100-yard rushing games (2) - 130 (2)

WEAVER, Seattle
TDs rushing (1) - 5

WESTBROOK, Philadelphia
TDs rushing (7) - 1 (2), 3, 5, 10, 25, 29
100-yard rushing games (6) - 100 (2), 110, 116, 120, 148
TDs receiving (5) - 4, 6, 18, 43, 57
100-yard receiving games (1) - 111

WHITE, Tennessee
TDs rushing (7) - 1 (4), 2, 3, 7
100-yard rushing games (5) - 100, 103, 104, 113, 133

WILLIAMS, Carolina
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 13, 32, 35
100-yard rushing games (2) - 121 (2)
TDs receiving (1) - 24

WILLIAMS, Tampa Bay
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (2), 7

WRIGHT, Cleveland
TDs rushing (1) - 1

WYNN, Green Bay
TDs rushing (4) - 2, 3, 6, 38

YOUNG, Denver
TDs rushing (1) - 20
100-yard rushing games (2) - 109, 156

WIDE RECEIVERS

ALLISON, Minnesota
TDs KOR (1) - 104

ANDERSON, Houston
TDs receiving (1) - 7

AVANT, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (2) - 4, 9

BASKETT, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (1) - 10

BATTLE, San Francisco
TDs receiving (5) - 5, 17, 20, 23, 57
TDs rushing (1) - 1

BENNETT, St. Louis
TDs receiving (3) - 3, 16, 23

BERRIAN, Chicago (Minnesota)
TDs receiving (5) - 3, 9, 17, 39, 59
100-yard receiving games (1) - 102

BOLDIN, Arizona
TDs receiving (9) - 2, 4, 5 (2), 10, 13, 20, 32, 44
100-yard receiving games (2) - 162, 181

BOOKER, Miami (Chicago)
TDs receiving (1) - 18

BOSS, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 19

BOWE, Kansas City
TDs receiving (5) - 16 (2), 19, 34, 51
100-yard receiving games (2) - 105, 164

BRADLEY, Chicago
TDs receiving (1) - 19

BRANCH, Seattle
TDs receiving (4) - 9, 15, 17, 42
100-yard receiving games (2) - 122, 130

BREASTON, Arizona
TDs PR (1) - 73

BROUSSARD, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (1) - 47

BROWN, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (4) - 1, 8, 31, 45
100-yard receiving games (1) - 105

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BRUCE, St. Louis (San Francisco)
TDs receiving (4) - 8, 9, 12, 15
100-yard receiving games (1) - 145

BURLESON, Seattle
TDs receiving (9) - 4, 7, 13, 21, 22 (2), 24, 43, 45
100-yard receiving games (1) - 119
TDs PR (1) - 94
TDs KOR (1) - 91

BURRESS, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (12) - 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 19, 20, 26, 33, 43, 53, 60
100-yard receiving games (3) - 124, 136, 144

CAMARILLO, Miami
TDs receiving (2) - 21, 64
100-yard receiving games (1) - 109

CARTER, Carolina (Oakland)
TDs receiving (4) - 5, 9, 10, 21
100-yard receiving games (1) - 132

CARTER, Cleveland (UFA)
TDs receiving (1) - 21

CHAMBERS, Miami/San Diego
TDs receiving (4) - 5, 14 (2), 19
100-yard receiving games (2) - 101, 109

CHATMAN, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (1) - 4

CLAYTON, Baltimore
100-yard receiving games (1) - 107

COLES, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (6) - 1, 3, 5, 7, 36, 57
100-yard receiving games (1) - 133

COLSTON, New Orleans
TDs receiving (11) - 2 (2), 3 (2), 4 (2), 15 (2), 17, 19, 21
100-yard receiving games (4) - 114, 118, 129, 159

COPPER, New Orleans
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 4

COTCHERY, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (2) - 9, 32
100-yard receiving games (4) - 107, 119, 152, 165

CRAYTON, Dallas
TDs receiving (7) - 3, 4 (2), 8, 20, 37, 59
100-yard receiving games (1) - 184

CRIBBS, Cleveland
TDs KOR (2) - 99, 100
TDs PR (1) - 76

CURRY, Oakland
TDs receiving (4) - 3, 4, 21, 41
100-yard receiving games (2) - 120, 133

CURTIS, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (6) - 7, 12, 24, 43, 68, 75
100-yard receiving games (3) - 111, 121, 221

DARLING, Baltimore (Kansas City)
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 15, 27
100-yard receiving games (1) - 107

DAVIS, Houston
TDs receiving (3) - 35, 42, 53
100-yard receiving games (1) - 117
TDs KOR (3) - 97 (2), 104

DAVIS, San Diego
TDs receiving (1) - 9

DAVIS, San Francisco
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 5, 7, 17

DRIVER, Green Bay
TDs receiving (2) - 5, 10
100-yard receiving games (2) - 126, 147

DWIGHT, Miami
TDs receiving (2) - 15, 28

EDWARDS, Cleveland
TDs receiving (16) - 2, 4, 5 (3), 12, 16 (2), 19, 21, 24, 34, 37, 45, 67, 78
100-yard receiving games (4) - 110, 117, 146, 149

ENGRAM, Seattle
TDs receiving (6) - 5, 12, 15, 17, 18, 30
100-yard receiving games (2) - 120, 139

EVANS, Buffalo
TDs receiving (5) - 4, 8, 9, 70, 85
100-yard receiving games (2) - 138, 165

FERGUSON, Minnesota
TDs receiving (1) - 19

FIGURS, Baltimore
TDs KOR (1) - 94
TDs PR (1) - 75

FITZGERALD, Arizona
TDs receiving (10) - 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, 18, 20, 21, 28, 48
100-yard receiving games (4) - 120, 136, 156, 171

FURREY, Detroit
TDs receiving (1) - 15

GAFFNEY, New England
TDs receiving (5) - 4, 8, 19, 48, 56
100-yard receiving games (1) - 122

GAGE, Tennessee
TDs receiving (2) - 11, 20
100-yard receiving games (1) - 104

GALLOWAY, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (6) - 24, 37, 44, 58, 69 (2)
100-yard receiving games (3) - 115, 135, 159

GINN, Miami
TDs receiving (2) - 5, 21
TDs PR (1) - 87

GONZALEZ, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (3) - 20, 40, 57
100-yard receiving games (2) - 105, 134

GRIFFITH, Oakland
TDs receiving (1) - 7

HACKETT, Seattle (Carolina)
TDs receiving (3) - 6, 10, 19
100-yard receiving games (2) - 101, 136

HAGAN, Miami
TDs receiving (2) - 21, 22

HALL, St. Louis
TDs PR (1) - 85

HARRISON, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (1) - 27

HENDERSON, New Orleans
TDs receiving (3) - 6, 37, 45
100-yard receiving games (1) - 101

HENRY, Cincinnati (X)
TDs receiving (2) - 37, 52

HESTER, Chicago
TDs receiving (2) - 55, 81
TDs KOR (2) - 88, 97
TDs PR (4) - 64, 73, 75, 89

HILLIARD, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (1) - 5
100-yard receiving games (1) - 114

HIXON, N.Y. Giants
TDs KOR (1) - 74

HOLMES, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (8) - 7 (2), 13, 15, 35, 40, 43, 59
100-yard receiving games (3) - 110, 128, 133

HOLT, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (1) - 7
TDs KOR (1) - 100

HOLT, St. Louis
TDs receiving (7) - 1, 3 (2), 4, 11, 12, 31
100-yard receiving games (3) - 110, 124, 135

HORN, Atlanta
TDs receiving (1) - 4

HOUSHMANDZADEH, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (12) - 1, 3, 5 (2), 7, 9, 15, 19, 23, 30, 35, 42
100-yard receiving games (3) - 100, 141, 145

HURD, Dallas
TDs receiving (1) - 51

JACKSON, San Diego
TDs receiving (3) - 15, 27, 38

JACKSON, San Francisco (Denver)
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 7, 21

JACOBS, San Francisco (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 21

JENKINS, Atlanta
TDs receiving (4) - 5 (2), 7, 13

JENNINGS, Atlanta
TDs receiving (1) - 7

JENNINGS, Green Bay
TDs receiving (12) - 4 (2), 11 (2), 13, 16, 41, 44, 57, 60, 80, 82
100-yard receiving games (2) - 100, 141

JOHNSON, Arizona (San Francisco)
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 5

JOHNSON, Cincinnati
TDs receiving (8) - 2 (2), 3, 10, 14, 22, 39, 70
100-yard receiving games (5) - 102, 103, 131, 138, 209

JOHNSON, Detroit
TDs receiving (4) - 6, 7, 16, 35
100-yard receiving games (1) - 102
TDs rushing (1) - 32

JOHNSON, Houston
TDs receiving (8) - 4 (2), 6, 9, 28, 31, 73, 77
100-yard receiving games (4) - 116, 120 (2), 142

JONES, Green Bay
TDs receiving (2) - 33, 79
100-yard receiving games (1) - 107

JONES, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (4) - 5, 6, 8, 37
100-yard receiving games (1) - 138

JONES, Tennessee
TDs receiving (2) - 21, 35

JUREVICIUS, Cleveland
TDs receiving (3) - 2, 9, 17

LEWIS, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (3) - 9, 18, 28

MARSHALL, Denver
TDs receiving (7) - 5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 41, 68
100-yard receiving games (4) - 107, 114, 115, 133

MARTIN, Green Bay
TDs receiving (4) - 3, 8, 17, 32

MARTINEZ, Denver
TDs PR (1) - 80

MASON, Baltimore
TDs receiving (5) - 4, 13, 15, 17, 79

MATHIS, Houston (Washington)
TDs KOR (1) - 84

McCARDELL, Washington
TDs receiving (1) - 6

McDONALD, Detroit
TDs receiving (6) - 4, 11, 17, 30, 32, 49
100-yard receiving games (1) - 113

MIDDLETON, Detroit
TDs receiving (1) - 9

MOORE, New Orleans
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 8
TDs rushing (1) - 7

MOSS, New England
TDs receiving (23) - 1, 3 (2), 4 (3), 6 (3), 7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 23, 24, 35, 43, 45, 50, 51, 63, 65
100-yard receiving games (11) - 100, 102, 105, 115 (2), 121, 122, 128, 135, 145, 183

MOSS, Washington
TDs receiving (3) - 5, 32, 42

MUHAMMAD, Chicago (Carolina)
TDs receiving (3) - 15 (2), 33

NORTHCUTT, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (4) - 3, 15, 17, 55

OBOMANU, Seattle
TDs receiving (1) - 17

OWENS, Dallas
TDs receiving (15) - 4, 5, 10 (2), 12, 22 (2), 25, 31, 34, 45, 46, 47, 50, 52
100-yard receiving games (6) - 103, 125, 145, 156, 173, 174

PARKER, Kansas City (Denver)
TDs receiving (2) - 10, 13

PARRISH, Buffalo
TDs rushing (1) - 24
TDs receiving (1) - 47
TDs PR (1) - 74

PATTEN, New Orleans
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 25, 32
100-yard receiving games (3) - 109, 113, 122

PORTER, Oakland (Jacksonville)
TDs receiving (6) - 7, 13, 25, 27, 32, 46

RANDLE EL, Washington
TDs receiving (1) - 15
100-yard receiving games (2) - 100, 162

RICE, Minnesota
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 15, 40, 60

ROBINSON, Atlanta
TDs receiving (1) - 74
100-yard receiving games (1) - 114

ROBINSON, Green Bay
TDs receiving (1) - 5

SMITH, Carolina
TDs receiving (7) - 7, 11, 12, 17, 65, 68, 74
100-yard receiving games (4) - 118, 136, 137, 153

SMITH, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (2) - 16, 19

SPURLOCK, Tampa Bay
TDs KOR (1) - 90

STALLWORTH, New England (Cleveland)
TDs receiving (3) - 30, 34, 69
100-yard receiving games (1) - 136

STOKLEY, Denver
TDs receiving (5) - 2, 9, 15, 21, 48
100-yard receiving games (1) - 102

STOVALL, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (1) - 4

THORPE, Indianapolis (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 3

THRASH, Washington
TDs receiving (2) - 4, 12

TOOMER, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (3) - 4, 5, 6

URBAN, Arizona
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 6
100-yard receiving games (1) - 123

WADE, Minnesota
TDs receiving (3) - 5, 6, 22

WALKER, Denver (Oakland)
100-yard receiving games (2) - 101, 119

WALTER, Houston
TDs receiving (4) - 6, 8, 17 (2)
100-yard receiving games (1) - 160

WALTERS, Detroit (UFA)
TDs receiving (1) - 15

WARD, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (7) - 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 21

WASHINGTON, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (5) - 7, 17, 30 (2), 33

WAYNE, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (10) - 5, 7, 8, 9, 23, 28, 34, 45, 48, 59
100-yard receiving games (6) - 115, 131, 140, 143, 158, 168

WEBB, Kansas City
TDs receiving (1) - 26

WELKER, New England
TDs receiving (8) - 2 (2), 3, 11, 12, 14, 16, 35
100-yard receiving games (4) - 122, 124, 138, 149

WHITE, Atlanta
TDs receiving (6) - 9, 10, 15, 33, 48, 69
100-yard receiving games (5) - 104, 110, 127, 141, 146

WILFORD, Jacksonville (Miami)
TDs receiving (3) - 6, 12, 17

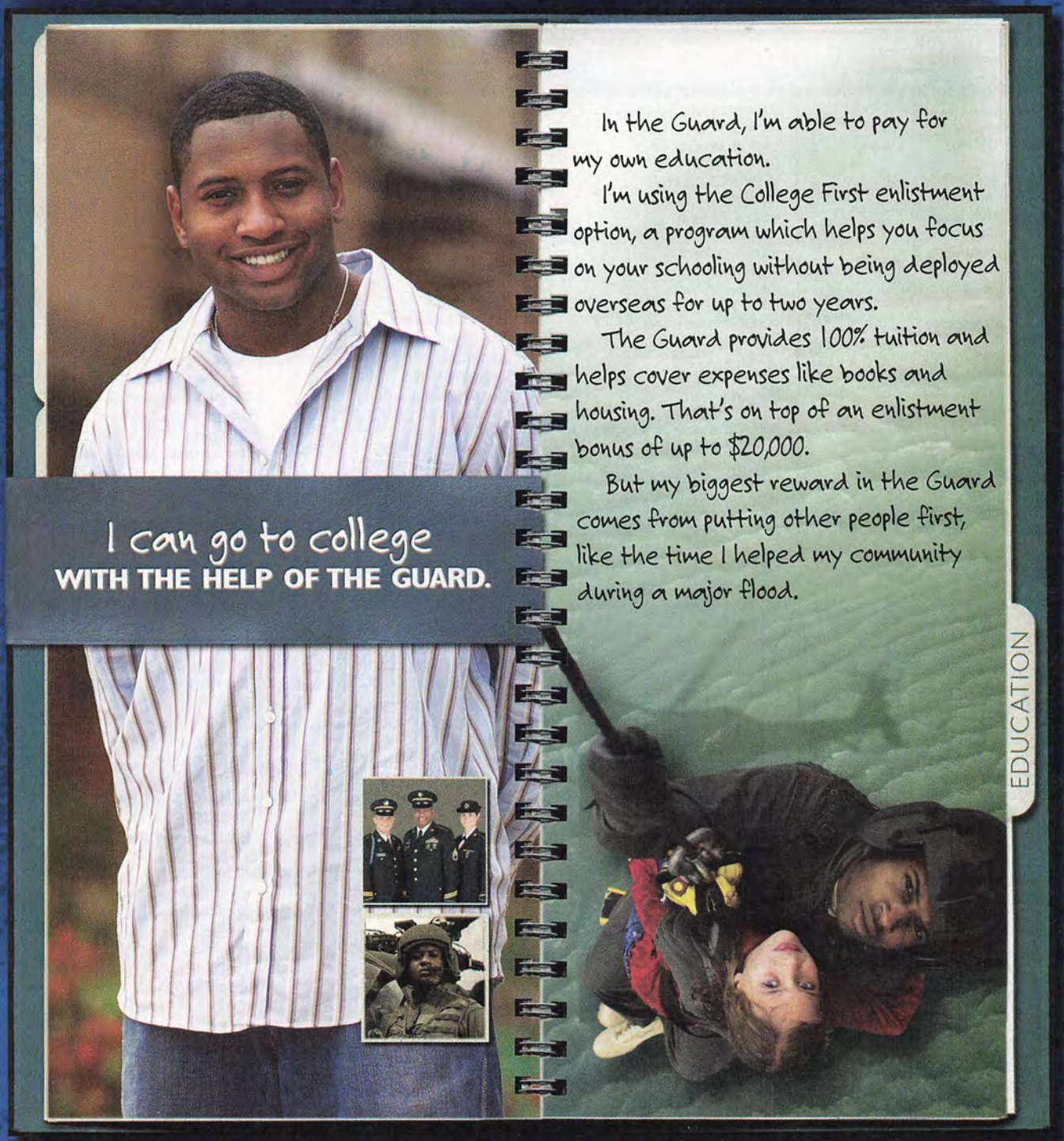
WILLIAMS, Detroit
TDs receiving (5) - 7 (2), 9, 13, 91
100-yard receiving games (3) - 106, 111, 204

WILLIAMS, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (10) - 3 (2), 9 (2), 14, 22 (2), 36, 59, 80
100-yard receiving games (1) - 128

WILLIAMS, Tennessee
TDs receiving (4) - 1, 16, 41, 43
100-yard receiving games (1) - 124

WILLIAMSON, Minnesota (Jacksonville)
TDs receiving (1) - 60

WILSON, Pittsburgh (X)
TDs receiving (1) - 7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TIGHT ENDS

ANGULO, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (1) - 7

BAKER, N.Y. Jets
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 3, 4

BECHT, N.Y. Jets (St. Louis)
TDs receiving (2) - 1 (2)

BIENEMANN, Arizona
TDs receiving (1) - 1

BOSS, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 19

BRADY, New England (X)
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 2

CELEK, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (1) - 2

CLARK, Chicago
TDs receiving (4) - 1 (2), 3, 34

CLARK, Indianapolis
TDs receiving (11) - 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 22, 35

COOLEY, Washington
TDs receiving (8) - 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 19, 33, 39
100-yard receiving games (1) - 105

CURTIS, Dallas
TDs receiving (3) - 15

CRUMPLER, Atlanta (Tennessee)
TDs receiving (5) - 7 (2), 13, 30, 55

CURTIS, Dallas
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 2, 15

DANIELS, Houston
TDs receiving (3) - 2, 4, 6

DAVIS, San Francisco
TDs receiving (4) - 2, 5, 7, 17

DREESSEN, Houston
TDs receiving (2) - 10, 28

FASANO, Dallas (Miami)
TDs receiving (1) - 26

FAURIA, Carolina (UFA)
TDs receiving (2) - 2 (2)

FITZSIMMONS, Detroit
TDs receiving (1) - 1
TDs KOR (1) - 41

FRANKS, Green Bay (N.Y. Jets)
TDs receiving (3) - 2, 4, 5

GAINES, Buffalo
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 3

GATES, San Diego
TDs receiving (9) - 2, 9, 12, 17, 24, 25, 31, 35, 49
100-yard receiving games (3) - 107, 113 (2)

GONZALEZ, Kansas City
TDs receiving (5) - 3, 15, 17, 22, 26
100-yard receiving games (5) - 100, 102, 109, 137, 140

GRAHAM, Denver
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 18

HEAP, Baltimore
TDs receiving (1) - 4

HELLER, Seattle
TDs receiving (3) - 1 (2), 11

JACKSON, Denver
TDs receiving (1) - 1

JOHNSON, New Orleans
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 7

KING, Carolina
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 5

KLEINSASSER, Minnesota
TDs receiving (1) - 2

KLOPENSTEIN, St. Louis
TDs receiving (1) - 36

KOWALEWSKI, N.Y. Jets (X)
TDs receiving (1) -

LEE, Green Bay
TDs receiving (6) - 1, 3, 4, 12, 26, 46

LEWIS, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 2

MADSEN, Oakland
TDs receiving (1) - 10

MANUMALEUNA, San Diego
TDs receiving (1) - 1

MARTIN, Miami
TDs receiving (2) - 4, 14

McMICHAEL, St. Louis
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 2, 29

MILLER, Houston
TDs receiving (2) - 1 (2)

MILLER, Oakland
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 2, 13

MILLER, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (7) - 1, 2, 12, 13, 17, 18, 22

OLSEN, Chicago
TDs receiving (2) - 19, 20

PATRICK, Arizona
TDs receiving (2) - 2, 3

PEELLE, Miami
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 3

POLLARD, Seattle (New England)
TDs receiving (2) - 3, 14

POPE, Arizona
TDs receiving (5) - 1, 2, 5, 16, 30

PUTZIER, Houston (Seattle)
TDs receiving (1) - 7

ROSARIO, Carolina
TDs receiving (2) - 5, 20

ROYAL, Buffalo
TDs receiving (3) - 8, 13, 28

SCAIFE, Tennessee
TDs receiving (1) - 3

SCHEFFLER, Denver
TDs receiving (5) - 1, 2, 5, 12, 14
100-yard receiving games (1) - 100

SCHOBEL, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (1) - 13

SHIANCOE, Minnesota
TDs receiving (1) - 9

SHOCKEY, N.Y. Giants
TDs receiving (3) - 2, 8, 13
100-yard receiving games (1) - 129

SMITH, Philadelphia
TDs receiving (1) - 8

SMITH, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (3) - 3 (2), 21

SPAETH, Pittsburgh
TDs receiving (3) - 1, 5, 13

STEVENS, Tampa Bay
TDs receiving (4) - 3, 4, 24 (2)

SYPNIEWSKI, Baltimore
TDs receiving (1) - 4

TUMAN, Pittsburgh (Arizona)
TDs receiving (1) - 9

UTECHT, Indianapolis (Cincinnati)
TDs receiving (1) - 5

VICKERS, Cleveland
TDs receiving (2) - 1, 2

WALKER, San Francisco
TDs receiving (1) - 21

WATSON, New England
TDs receiving (6) - 3, 5, 7 (2), 8, 25
100-yard receiving games (1) - 107

WILCOX, Baltimore
TDs receiving (1) - 1

WILSON, Kansas City (Philadelphia)
TDs receiving (1) - 9

WINSLOW, Cleveland
TDs receiving (5) - 4, 7, 14, 21, 25
100-yard receiving games (2) - 100, 125

WITTEN, Dallas
TDs receiving (7) - 3, 12, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25
100-yard receiving games (4) - 103, 113, 116, 138

WRIGHSTER, Jacksonville
TDs receiving (1) - 1

YODER, Washington
TDs receiving (1) - 21

QUARTERBACKS

ANDERSON, Cleveland
TDs passing (29) - 1, 2 (3), 4 (2), 5 (3), 6, 7 (2), 9, 12, 14, 16 (2), 17, 19, 21 (3), 24, 25, 34, 37, 45, 67, 78
300-yard passing games (3) - 304, 328, 364
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (3)

BATCH, Pittsburgh
TDs passing (2) - 7, 59

BECK, Miami
TDs passing (1) - 22
TDs rushing (1) - 2

BOLLER, Baltimore
TDs passing (9) - 1, 2, 4 (3), 13, 15, 17, 27

BOLLINGER, Minnesota
TDs passing (1) - 40

BRADY, New England
TDs passing (50) - 1 (3), 2 (4), 3 (4), 4 (4), 5, 6 (3), 7 (3), 8 (2), 11 (2), 12, 13, 14 (2), 16 (2), 17, 19, 23, 24, 25, 30, 34, 35 (2), 43, 45, 48, 50, 51, 56, 63, 65, 69
300-yard passing games (8) - 306, 311, 354, 356, 373, 380, 388, 399
TDs rushing (2) - 2, 3

BREES, New Orleans
TDs passing (28) - 1 (3), 2 (4), 3 (3), 4 (5), 6, 7, 8, 11, 15 (2), 17, 19, 21, 25, 32, 37, 45
300-yard passing games (5) - 315, 320, 328, 336, 445
TDs rushing (1) - 8

BULGER, St. Louis
TDs passing (11) - 1, 3 (3), 4, 9, 12 (3), 23, 36
300-yard passing games (3) - 302, 310, 368

CAMPBELL, Washington
TDs passing (12) - 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (2), 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 39
300-yard passing games (2) - 301, 348
TDs rushing (1) - 6

CARR, Carolina (N.Y. Giants)
TDs passing (3) - 17, 18, 24

CASSEL, New England
TDs rushing (1) - 15

CLEMENS, N.Y. Jets
TDs passing (5) - 1 (2), 3, 15, 19
TDs rushing (1) - 1

COLLINS, Washington
TDs passing (5) - 16, 21, 32, 33, 42

CROYLE, Kansas City
TDs passing (6) - 9, 10, 13, 15, 19, 26

CULPEPPER, Oakland (UFA)
TDs passing (5) - 1, 7, 10, 21, 27
300-yard passing games (1) - 344
TDs rushing (3) - 2, 3, 5

CUTLER, Denver
TDs passing (20) - 1 (3), 2 (2), 5 (2), 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 (2), 18, 21, 41, 48, 68
300-yard passing games (2) - 302, 304
TDs rushing (1) - 2

DELHOMME, Carolina
TDs passing (8) - 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 68, 74
300-yard passing games (1) - 316

DILFER, San Francisco (X)
TDs passing (7) - 1, 2, 17, 20, 21, 23, 57

EDWARDS, Buffalo
TDs passing (7) - 1, 3, 4, 9, 13, 28, 70

FAVRE, Green Bay (retired)
TDs passing (28) - 1, 2, 3 (2), 4 (4), 5 (3), 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 26, 33, 41, 44, 46, 57, 60, 79, 80, 82
300-yard passing games (7) - 322, 331, 344, 351, 360, 369, 381

FEELEY, Philadelphia
TDs passing (5) - 4, 8, 18, 24, 28
300-yard passing games (1) - 345

FREROTTE, St. Louis (Minnesota)
TDs passing (7) - 1, 8, 11, 15, 16, 29, 31
300-yard passing games (1) - 311

GARCIA, Tampa Bay
TDs passing (13) - 1, 3 (2), 4, 5, 21, 24 (2), 37, 44, 58, 69 (2)
300-yard passing games (1) - 316
TDs rushing (1) - 3

GARRARD, Jacksonville
TDs passing (18) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 3 (3), 6, 9, 12, 14, 17, 22, 36, 37, 47, 55, 59
TDs rushing (1) - 2

GRAY, Jacksonville (Houston)
TDs passing (10) - 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 17, 22, 80
300-yard passing games (2) - 302, 354

GREEN, Miami (St. Louis)
TDs passing (5) - 1, 3, 18, 21, 22
300-yard passing games (1) - 318

GRIESE, Chicago (Tampa Bay)
TDs passing (10) - 1, 15 (2), 17, 19, 20, 33, 34, 39, 81
300-yard passing games (2) - 322, 381

GROSSMAN, Chicago
TDs passing (4) - 1, 2, 3, 59

HARRINGTON, Atlanta
TDs passing (7) - 5, 7 (2), 13, 30, 48, 69
300-yard passing games (1) - 361

HASSELBECK, Seattle
TDs passing (28) - 1 (2), 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 (2), 15 (2), 17 (3), 18, 19, 21, 22 (2), 24, 30, 34, 42, 43
300-yard passing games (3) - 318, 337, 362

HILL, San Francisco
TDs passing (5) - 5 (2), 17, 21, 23
TDs rushing (1) - 3

HOLCOMB, Minnesota (X)
TDs passing (2) - 9, 15

HUARD, Kansas City
TDs passing (11) - 1, 2, 3, 16 (2), 17, 22, 26, 30, 34, 51
300-yard passing games (1) - 305

JACKSON, Minnesota
TDs passing (9) - 2 (2), 5, 6, 19, 22, 60 (3)
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (2), 6

KITNA, Detroit
TDs passing (18) - 1, 4, 6, 7 (2), 9 (2), 11, 13, 15 (2), 16, 17, 30, 32, 35, 49, 91
300-yard passing games (3) - 302, 377, 446

LEFTWICH, Atlanta (X)
TDs passing games (1) - 9

LEINART, Arizona
TDs passing (2) - 5, 30

LEMON, Miami (Jacksonville)
TDs passing (6) - 4, 5, 14, 21 (2), 64
300-yard passing games (1) - 315
TDs rushing (4) - 1, 4, 5 (2)

LOSMAN, Buffalo
TDs passing games (4) - 8, 10, 47, 85

MANNING, Indianapolis
TDs passing (31) - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (3), 6, 7 (2), 8 (2), 9 (2), 10, 11, 14, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, 28, 34, 35, 40, 45, 48, 57, 59, 73
300-yard passing games (3) - 311, 312, 328
TDs rushing (3) - 1 (3)

MANNING, N.Y. Giants
TDs passing (23) - 2, 3 (2), 4 (2), 5, 6 (2), 7, 8, 9 (2), 10 (2), 13, 19 (2), 20, 26, 33, 43, 53, 60
300-yard passing games (2) - 303, 312
TDs rushing (1) - 10

FANTASY FOOTBALL

McCOWN, Oakland (Miami)
TDs passing (10) - 3, 4, 7, 13 (2), 15, 25, 28, 41, 46
300-yard passing games (2) - 313 (2)

McCOWN, Tampa Bay
TDs passing (5) - 1, 3, 4, 23, 24

McNABB, Philadelphia
TDs passing (19) - 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 (2), 10, 12, 13, 18, 31, 43 (2), 45, 57, 68, 75
300-yard passing games (3) - 333, 345, 381

McNAIR, Baltimore (retired)
TDs passing games (2) - 4, 13
300-yard passing games (1) - 307

MOORE, Carolina
TDs passing (3) - 2, 11, 20

NALL, Green Bay (UFA)
TDs passing (1) - 32

ORTON, Chicago
TDs passing (3) - 3, 19, 55

O'SULLIVAN, Detroit (San Francisco)
TDs passing (1) - 7

PALMER, Cincinnati
TDs passing (26) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 3 (2), 4, 5 (2), 7 (2), 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 22, 23, 30, 35, 37, 39, 42, 52, 70
300-yard passing games (5) - 316, 320, 329, 342, 401

PENNINGTON, N.Y. Jets
TDs passing (10) - 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 32, 36, 57
TDs rushing (1) - 2

RAMSEY, Denver
TDs passing (1) - 2

RATTAY, Arizona (UFA)
TDs passing (3) - 1, 2 (2)

REDMAN, Atlanta
TDs passing games (10) - 4, 5, 7 (2), 10, 13, 15, 33, 55, 74
300-yard passing games (1) - 315

RIVERS, San Diego
TDs passing (21) - 1 (2), 2, 5, 7 (2), 9 (2), 12, 14 (2), 15, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27, 31, 35, 38, 49
300-yard passing games (2) - 306, 309
TDs rushing (1) - 2

RODGERS, Green Bay
TDs passing (1) - 11

ROETHLISBERGER, Pittsburgh
TDs passing (32) - 1 (2), 2 (2), 5 (2), 6, 7 (3), 8, 9, 11, 12 (3), 13 (3), 15, 17 (2), 18, 21, 22, 30 (2), 32, 33, 35, 40, 43
TDs rushing (2) - 6, 30

ROMO, Dallas
TDs passing (36) - 1, 2, 3 (2), 4 (3), 5, 8 (2), 10 (3), 12 (2), 15, 16, 17, 20 (2), 22 (3), 25 (2), 26, 31, 34, 37, 45, 46, 47, 50, 51, 52, 59
300-yard passing games (7) - 302, 309 (2), 324, 329, 339, 345
TDs rushing (2) - 9, 15

ROSENFELS, Houston
TDs passing (15) - 1, 2, 4 (3), 6 (2), 7 (2), 8, 17, 28 (2), 42, 53
TDs rushing (1) - 5

RUSSELL, Oakland
TDs passing (2) - 2, 32

SCHAUB, Houston
TDs passing (9) - 1, 6, 9, 10, 17, 31, 35, 73, 77
300-yard passing games (1) - 317

SMITH, Baltimore
TDs passing games (2) - 79
TDs rushing (1) - 6

SMITH, San Francisco
TDs passing (2) - 7, 21

SORGI, Indianapolis
TDs passing (1) - 3

TESTAVERDE, Carolina (retired)
TDs passing (5) - 1, 2, 5 (2), 65

WALLACE, Seattle
TDs passing (2) - 13, 45

WARNER, Arizona
TDs passing (27) - 1 (3), 2 (2), 3, 4 (2), 5 (4), 6 (2), 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20 (2), 21, 28, 32, 44, 48
300-yard passing games (4) - 300, 337, 369, 484
TDs rushing (1) - 1

WEINKE, San Francisco (UFA)
TDs passing (1) - 7

YOUNG, Tennessee
TDs passing (9) - 1, 3, 11, 16, 20, 21, 35, 41, 43
300-yard passing games (1) - 305
TDs rushing (3) - 2, 3, 4

KICKERS

AKERS, Philadelphia
FGs (24) - 20, 21, 22 (2), 24 (3), 25 (2), 26, 27, 29, 31 (2), 33 (2), 34, 36, 37, 38, 39 (2), 47, 53
PATs (36)

ANDERSEN, Atlanta (UFA)
FGs (25) - 21 (2), 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28 (2), 30 (2), 32 (2), 33 (3), 34, 36 (2), 37, 38, 41, 46, 47 (2)
PATs (24)

BIRONAS, Tennessee
FGs (35) - 20, 21, 23 (2), 25 (2), 28 (2), 29 (2), 30 (3), 31, 33 (2), 35, 36 (2), 37 (3), 40 (3), 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 56
PATs (28)

BROWN, Houston
FGs (25) - 19, 20 (2), 23, 25, 26, 28, 33 (3), 35, 36, 37, 40 (2), 41 (2), 42, 43, 45, 50, 53, 54 (2), 57
PATs (40)

BROWN, Seattle (St. Louis)
FGs (28) - 20, 22, 23 (5), 25, 26, 28 (3), 31, 33, 38, 39 (2), 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46 (2), 48, 51, 52, 54
PATs (43)

BRYANT, Tampa Bay
FGs (28) - 22 (2), 23 (3), 25, 27 (4), 28, 31 (2), 32 (2), 33, 34 (2), 35, 38 (2), 39, 42, 43, 44, 48 (2), 49
PATs (34)

CARNEY, Jacksonville/Kansas City (UFA)
FGs (12) - 18, 19, 20, 27 (2), 30, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41
PATs (27)

CROSBY, Green Bay
FGs (31) - 19, 20 (2), 24, 25, 26 (2), 28 (2), 32, 33 (2), 35, 36, 37 (4), 39, 42, 44 (3), 45, 46, 47 (2), 48, 50, 52, 53
PATs (48)

DAWSON, Cleveland
FGs (26) - 18, 19, 20 (2), 22, 23 (2), 25 (2), 27, 28, 33, 35 (2), 37, 39 (3), 40, 41, 42, 45, 49 (3), 51
PATs (42)

ELAM, Denver (Atlanta)
FGs (27) - 20, 21 (3), 22 (2), 23 (4), 29, 30 (2), 35, 37 (2), 39, 41, 42, 43, 44 (2), 45, 47, 48, 49, 50
PATs (33)

FEELY, Miami
FGs (21) - 20, 22, 23 (2), 29 (3), 31, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49, 53
PATs (26)

FOLK, Dallas
FGs (26) - 22, 23 (3), 25, 26 (2), 27, 28, 29, 30 (2), 31, 33, 37 (2), 38, 42, 44 (2), 45, 46, 47 (2), 51, 53
PATs (53)

GOSTKOWSKI, New England
FGs (21) - 20, 21, 22 (2), 23, 24 (2), 25, 26, 28, 31, 34 (2), 36 (2), 37 (2), 38, 42, 45 (2)
PATs (74)

GOULD, Chicago
FGs (31) - 20, 21, 22 (2), 24, 27, 29, 30, 31 (3), 32 (2), 35 (2), 36, 38, 39 (2), 41 (3), 44 (2), 45, 46, 47 (3), 48, 49
PATs (33)

GRAHAM, Cincinnati
FGs (31) - 19, 20 (3), 21, 22, 23, 24 (3), 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 (2), 34, 35 (3), 36, 38 (3), 40 (2), 41, 43, 46, 48
PATs (37)

GRAMATICA, New Orleans
FGs (5) - 31, 35, 46, 48, 55
PATs (8)

HANSON, Detroit
FGs (29) - 19, 20 (2), 23, 26, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37 (2), 38 (2), 39, 41, 42 (2), 43, 45, 46 (3), 47 (2), 49, 52 (2), 53
PATs (35)

KAEDING, San Diego
FGs (24) - 20, 22 (2), 23 (2), 24 (2), 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36 (2), 38, 40, 41 (2), 44, 45 (2), 46, 51
PATs (46)

JANIKOWSKI, Oakland
FGs (23) - 22 (2), 23, 25, 30, 32, 37 (2), 38 (2), 41, 42 (2), 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 52 (2), 53, 54 (2)
PATs (28)

KASAY, Carolina
FGs (24) - 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29 (2), 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37 (2), 39, 43, 45 (3), 49 (2), 52, 53
PATs (27)

LINDELL, Buffalo
FGs (24) - 21, 22, 23 (2), 24 (3), 26, 29 (3), 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38 (2), 40, 41, 43, 46, 51, 52
PATs (24)

LONGWELL, Minnesota
FGs (20) - 22 (2), 26, 30, 32 (2), 35, 38, 39, 42, 44, 46 (2), 48 (5), 49, 55
PATs (39)

MARE, New Orleans (Seattle)
FGs (10) - 23, 25, 26, 28, 34 (2), 36, 46 (2), 52
PATs (34)

MEDLOCK, Kansas City (St. Louis)
FGs (1) - 27
PATs (0)

NEDNEY, San Francisco
FGs (17) - 19, 22 (2), 28, 29 (2), 30, 32 (2), 33, 38 (2), 40, 43, 46, 49, 50
PATs (22)

NUGENT, N.Y. Jets
FGs (29) - 19, 21 (3), 24, 25, 26, 27 (2), 28, 29 (2), 30 (3), 33, 35 (4), 38 (2), 40 (2), 41, 43 (2), 47, 50
PATs (23)

PRATER, Atlanta/Denver
FGs (1) - 45
PATs (1)

RACKERS, Arizona
FGs (21) - 19 (2), 23 (2), 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 (2), 33 (2), 35, 40, 41, 42, 47, 48, 50 (2), 52
PATs (47)

RAYNER, Kansas City/San Diego (Miami)
FGs (15) - 20, 21, 25, 30, 31, 32, 36, 38, 39 (2), 41 (2), 45, 47, 49
PATs (14)

REED, Pittsburgh
FGs (23) - 21 (2), 22, 23, 24, 26, 28 (2), 29, 30, 31 (2), 33, 34, 35 (2), 36, 37, 39, 40, 44, 48, 49
PATs (44)

SCOBEE, Jacksonville
FGs (12) - 20 (2), 21, 22 (2), 23, 33 (2), 36, 46, 47, 48
PATs (26)

STOVER, Baltimore
FGs (27) - 18, 21 (2), 23 (2), 26, 27, 28 (3), 29 (2), 31 (2), 32, 34, 36 (2), 39, 41, 42, 43 (3), 46, 47, 49
PATs (26)

SUISHAM, Washington
FGs (29) - 21 (2), 22, 23 (2), 26, 27, 28 (3), 31 (2), 33, 35, 37, 38, 39 (2), 40 (2), 43, 44 (2), 45, 46 (3), 47, 50
PATs (29)

TYNES, N.Y. Giants
FGs (23) - 19, 20 (2), 23 (2), 24, 26, 28, 29 (2), 32 (2), 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48 (3)
PATs (40)

VINATIERI, Indianapolis
FGs (23) - 19, 20 (3), 21, 22 (3), 24 (2), 25, 27 (2), 28, 29, 33 (2), 35 (2), 36 (2), 37, 39
PATs (49)

WILKINS, St. Louis (retired)
FGs (24) - 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29 (2), 31 (2), 32, 35 (2), 37, 40, 42 (2), 44, 46 (2), 49 (2), 50, 52, 53
PATs (25)

DEFENSE / SPECIAL TEAMS TOUCHDOWNS

Minnesota (9); Arizona, Chicago, New England, San Diego (8); Houston (7); Green Bay, N.Y. Giants (6); Buffalo, Cincinnati, Detroit, New Orleans, N.Y. Jets, Seattle (5); Baltimore, Cleveland, Dallas, Jacksonville (4); Denver, Indianapolis, Miami, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Tampa Bay (3); Carolina, Oakland, Philadelphia, Tennessee, Washington (2); Atlanta, Kansas City, San Francisco (1).

Homeless Players

The following players were not on NFL rosters as of press time:

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College	Gms
Alexander, Shaun (RB)	5-11	228	8	Alabama	13/10
Anderson, Mike (RB)	6-0	230	9	Utah	8/0
Archuleta, Adam (S)	5-11	215	8	Arizona State	15/10
Ashworth, Tom (G)	6-6	306	7	Colorado	13/0
Bailey, Rodney (DE)	6-3	309	8	Ohio State	16/0
*Barber, Shawn (OLB)	6-2	228	11	Richmond	6/0
*Bashir, Idrees (S)	6-2	198	7	Memphis	9/1
Bell, Kendrell (OLB)	6-1	245	8	Georgia	11/0
Brady, Kyle (TE)	6-6	280	14	Penn State	14/9
Butler, Jerametrius (CB)	5-10	181	8	Kansas State	7/1
Byrd, Dominique (TE)	6-2	254	3	Southern Cal	9/0
Carney, John (K)	5-11	185	19	Notre Dame	13/0
Carter, Tim (WR)	6-0	185	7	Auburn	16/0
Clarke, Adrien (G)	6-5	330	4	Ohio State	14/14
Clement, Anthony (T)	6-8	320	11	SW Louisiana	16/16
*Coleman, Roderick (DT)	6-2	297	10	East Carolina	5/5
*Colvin, Rosevelt (OLB)	6-3	250	10	Purdue	11/10
Cooper, Deke (S)	6-2	210	6	Notre Dame	16/15
Cousin, Terry (CB)	5-9	188	12	South Carolina	16/2
*Culpepper, Daunte (QB)	6-4	260	10	UCF	7/6
Davis, Russell (DT)	6-4	306	10	North Carolina	11/0
Dayne, Ron (RB)	5-10	244	9	Wisconsin	13/8
*Deloatch, Curtis (CB)	6-2	214	5	North Carolina A&T	6/0
Dilfer, Trent (QB)	6-4	247	15	Fresno State	7/6
Doss, Mike (S)	5-10	207	6	Ohio State	8/1
Dunn, Jason (TE)	6-6	274	12	Eastern Kentucky	16/3
Dyson, Andre (CB)	5-10	183	8	Utah	9/0
Euhus, Tim (TE)	6-5	249	4	Oregon State	10/0
Flanagan, Mike (C)	6-5	292	13	UCLA	14/13
Fletcher, Bryan (TE)	6-5	230	4	UCLA	15/3
Flynn, Mike (C)	6-3	305	11	Maine	15/15
Gado, Samkon (RB)	5-10	225	4	Liberty	8/2
Gandy, Dylan (G/C)	6-3	302	4	Texas Tech	10/1
*Gandy, Wayne (T)	6-5	315	16	Auburn	5/5
Gaston, Willie (CB)	5-10	187	1	Houston	4/2
Gilmore, Bryan (WR)	6-1	200	8	Midwestern State	10/0
*Givens, David (WR)	6-0	215	7	Notre Dame	0/0
Godfrey, Randall (OLB)	6-2	245	13	Georgia	11/4
Gold, Ian (OLB)	6-0	223	9	Michigan	14/14
Henry, Chris (WR)	6-4	200	4	West Virginia	8/2
Herndon, Kelly (CB)	5-10	180	7	Toledo	4/0
Holcomb, Kelly (QB)	6-2	216	12	Middle Tennessee State	3/3
*Holdman, Warrick (OLB)	6-1	243	10	Texas A&M	0/0
Jackson, Grady (DT)	6-2	345	12	Knoxville	16/16
Johnson, Trevor (DE)	6-4	270	4	Nebraska	9/0
Jones, Kevin (RB)	6-0	228	5	Virginia Tech	13/10
Joppru, Ben (TE)	6-4	255	6	Michigan	13/0
Kennedy, Kenoy (S)	6-1	215	9	Arkansas	16/15
*Kennison, Eddie (WR)	6-1	201	13	Louisiana State	8/8
Krause, Ryan (TE)	6-3	244	5	Nebraska-Omaha	9/0
*Kreider, Dan (FB)	5-11	255	8	New Hampshire	10/4
*Kriewaldt, Clint (ILB)	6-1	248	10	Wis.-Stevens Point	14/0
Law, Ty (CB)	5-11	200	14	Michigan	16/16
Leftwich, Byron (QB)	6-5	250	6	Marshall	3/2
Lekkerkerker, Cory (T)	6-7	323	4	California-Davis	11/2
Lewis, Michael (WR/KR)	5-8	173	8	None	13/0
Liwienski, Chris (G)	6-5	325	10	Indiana	16/14
Mahe, Reno (RB)	5-10	212	6	Brigham Young	15/0
*Marshall, Lemar (OLB)	6-2	225	7	Michigan State	4/3
*McFarland, Anthony (NT)	6-0	300	10	Louisiana State	0/0
*McKinney, Steve (G)	6-4	299	11	Texas A&M	3/3
*Miller, Caleb (OLB)	6-3	225	5	Arkansas	3/1
Miller, Fred (T)	6-7	314	13	Baylor	15/15
*Moorehead, Aaron (WR)	6-3	200	6	Illinois	8/2
*Morris, Rob (MLB)	6-2	243	9	Brigham Young	2/2
*Naeole, Chris (G)	6-3	328	12	Colorado	8/8
Nall, Craig (QB)	6-3	230	7	Northwestern State	1/0
Neal, Lorenzo (FB)	5-11	255	15	Fresno State	13/8
Neufeld, Ryan (TE)	6-4	245	8	UCLA	9/1
Newberry, Jeremy (C)	6-5	315	11	California	14/14
Olivea, Shane (T)	6-4	312	5	Ohio State	13/10
*Page, Chase (T)	6-4	295	2	North Carolina	6/0
*Palmer, Tony (G/C)	6-2	311	3	Missouri	2/0
Pearman, Alvin (RB/KR)	5-10	206	3	Virginia	3/0
Pittman, Michael (RB)	6-0	228	11	Fresno State	10/3
*Price, Peerless (WR)	5-11	194	10	Tennessee	4/4
Rattay, Tim (QB)	6-0	200	9	Louisiana Tech	4/0
*Ross, Oliver (T)	6-4	310	10	Iowa State	0/0
Roye, Orpheus (DE)	6-4	330	13	Florida State	13/6
Saipaia, Blaine (G/T)	6-3	315	5	Colorado State	14/1
Schlegel, Anthony (MLB)	6-1	251	3	Ohio State	13/5
Smith, Musa (RB)	6-0	232	6	Georgia	16/1
Simmons, Brian (MLB)	6-3	244	11	North Carolina	16/3
Sims, Barry (T/G)	6-5	300	10	Utah	16/16
Smith, Paul (FB)	5-11	242	9	Texas-El Paso	14/0
*Spikes, Takeo (OLB)	6-2	242	11	Auburn	14/14
Spires, Greg (DE)	6-1	265	11	Florida State	10/8
Spragan, Donnie (ILB)	6-3	242	8	Stanford	16/5
Stevens, Jerramy (TE)	6-7	260	7	Washington	15/3
Stokes, Barry (G)	6-4	310	9	Eastern Michigan	0/0
Stoutmire, Omar (S)	5-11	202	12	Fresno State	3/0
*Thomas, Anthony (RB)	6-2	221	8	Michigan	10/2
Thomas, Fred (CB)	5-9	185	13	Tennessee-Martin	7/0
Thompson, Lamont (S)	6-1	215	7	Washington State	6/0
Thompson, Tyson (RB)	6-1	225	4	San Jose State	8/0
Traylor, Keith (DT)	6-2	340	16	Central State (OK)	15/14
Tuiasosopo, Marques (QB)	6-1	220	8	Washington	0/0
Walters, Troy (WR)	5-8	171	9	Stanford	13/0
Welbourn, John (T)	6-5	310	10	California	16/16
Whitaker, Ronyell (CB)	5-9	196	3	Virginia Tech	11/0
Wilkins, Marcus (OLB)	6-2	233	7	Texas	15/0
Williams, Shaud (RB)	5-7	193	4	Alabama	0/0
Wilson, Cedrick (WR)	5-10	183	10	Tennessee	16/1
*Wire, Coy (OLB)	6-0	220	7	Stanford	7/1
*Worrell, Cameron (S)	5-11	194	5	Fresno State	12/7
Wright, Manuel (DT)	6-5	345	3	Southern Cal	6/0
Wynn, Dexter (CB)	5-9	171	5	Colorado State	8/1

*Ended 2007 season on injured reserve

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NFL SCHEDULES

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ALL TIMES LOCAL

PRESEASON

FIRST WEEK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Indianapolis vs. Washington at Canton (NBC)	8:00

SECOND WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

New Orleans at Arizona (ESPN)	5:00
Baltimore at New England	7:30
Kansas City at Chicago	7:00
N.Y. Giants at Detroit	7:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	7:30

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	7:30
San Francisco at Oakland	7:00
Seattle at Minnesota	7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Atlanta at Jacksonville	7:30
Buffalo at Washington	7:00
Dallas at San Diego	7:00
Denver at Houston	7:00
Indianapolis at Carolina	7:30
St. Louis at Tennessee	7:00
Tampa Bay at Miami	7:30

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Cincinnati at Green Bay (ESPN)	7:00

THIRD WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Carolina at Philadelphia (FOX)	8:00
Pittsburgh at Buffalo (Toronto)	7:30

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Arizona at Kansas City	7:00
Chicago at Seattle	6:00
Dallas at Denver	7:00
Green Bay at San Francisco	6:00
Houston at New Orleans	7:00
Indianapolis at Atlanta	7:30
Miami at Jacksonville	7:30
Minnesota at Baltimore	7:30
Oakland at Tennessee (FOX)	7:00
San Diego at St. Louis	7:00
Washington at N.Y. Jets	7:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Detroit at Cincinnati	7:35
New England at Tampa Bay (NFLN)	8:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Cleveland at N.Y. Giants (ESPN)	8:00

FOURTH WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

San Francisco at Chicago (FOX)	8:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Green Bay at Denver	7:00
Houston at Dallas (CBS)	7:00
Philadelphia at New England	7:30
Tennessee at Atlanta	7:30

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Arizona at Oakland	6:00
Baltimore at St. Louis	7:00
Cleveland at Detroit	4:00
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay	7:30
Kansas City at Miami	7:30
New Orleans at Cincinnati	7:30
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets	7:00
Pittsburgh at Minnesota (CBS)	7:00
Washington at Carolina	7:30

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Buffalo at Indianapolis (NFLN)	8:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Seattle at San Diego (ESPN)	5:00

FIFTH WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Atlanta at Baltimore	7:30
Carolina at Pittsburgh	7:30
Chicago at Cleveland	7:30
Cincinnati at Indianapolis	7:00
Jacksonville at Washington (NBC)	7:00
Detroit at Buffalo	6:30
Miami at New Orleans	7:00
Minnesota at Dallas	7:00
New England at N.Y. Giants	7:00
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia	6:30
St. Louis at Kansas City	7:00
Tampa Bay at Houston	7:00
Tennessee at Green Bay	7:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Denver at Arizona	7:00
Oakland at Seattle	7:00
San Diego at San Francisco	7:00

REGULAR SEASON

FIRST WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Washington at N.Y. Giants	7:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Detroit at Atlanta	1:00
Cincinnati at Baltimore	1:00
Seattle at Buffalo	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Miami	1:00
Kansas City at New England	1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans	12:00
St. Louis at Philadelphia	1:00
Houston at Pittsburgh	1:00
Jacksonville at Tennessee	12:00
Dallas at Cleveland	4:15
Carolina at San Diego	1:15
Arizona at San Francisco	1:15
Chicago at Indianapolis	8:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Minnesota at Green Bay	6:00
Denver at Oakland	7:15

SECOND WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Chicago at Carolina Panthers	1:00
Tennessee at Cincinnati	1:00
Green Bay at Detroit	1:00
Buffalo at Jacksonville	1:00
Oakland at Kansas City	12:00
Indianapolis at Minnesota	12:00
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis	12:00
New Orleans at Washington	1:00
San Francisco at Seattle	1:05
Atlanta at Tampa Bay	4:05
Miami at Arizona	1:15
San Diego at Denver	2:15
Baltimore at Houston	3:15
New England at N.Y. Jets	4:15
Pittsburgh at Cleveland	8:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Philadelphia at Dallas	7:30

THIRD WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Kansas City at Atlanta	1:00
Oakland at Buffalo	1:00
Tampa Bay at Chicago	12:00
Carolina at Minnesota	12:00
Miami at New England	1:00
Cincinnati at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Houston at Tennessee	12:00
Arizona at Washington	1:00
New Orleans at Denver	2:05
Detroit at San Francisco	1:05
St. Louis at Seattle	1:05
Cleveland at Baltimore	4:15
Jacksonville at Indianapolis	4:15
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia	4:15
Dallas at Green Bay	7:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

N.Y. Jets at San Diego	5:30

FOURTH WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

BYES: Detroit, Indianapolis, Miami, New England, N.Y. Giants, Seattle

Atlanta at Carolina	1:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati	1:00
Houston at Jacksonville	1:00
Denver at Kansas City	12:00
San Francisco at New Orleans	12:00
Arizona at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Green Bay at Tampa Bay	1:00
Minnesota at Tennessee	12:00
San Diego at Oakland	1:05
Buffalo at St. Louis	3:05
Washington at Dallas	3:15
Philadelphia at Chicago	7:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Baltimore at Pittsburgh	8:30

FIFTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

BYES: Cleveland, N.Y. Jets, St. Louis, Oakland

Tennessee at Baltimore	1:00
Kansas City at Carolina	1:00
Chicago at Detroit	1:00
Atlanta at Green Bay	12:00
Indianapolis at Houston	12:00
San Diego at Miami	1:00
Seattle at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Washington at Philadelphia	1:00
Tampa Bay at Denver	2:05
Buffalo at Arizona	1:15
Cincinnati at Dallas	3:15
New England at San Francisco	1:15
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville	8:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Minnesota at New Orleans	7:30

SIXTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

BYES: Buffalo, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Tennessee

Chicago at Atlanta	1:00
Miami at Houston	12:00
Baltimore at Indianapolis	1:00
Detroit at Minnesota	12:00
Oakland at New Orleans	12:00
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Carolina at Tampa Bay	1:00
St. Louis at Washington	1:00
Jacksonville at Denver	2:05
Dallas at Arizona	1:15
Philadelphia at San Francisco	1:15
Green Bay at Seattle	1:15
New England at San Diego	5:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

N.Y. Giants at Cleveland	8:30

SEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

BYES: Arizona, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Philadelphia

San Diego at Buffalo	1:00
New Orleans at Carolina	1:00
Minnesota at Chicago	12:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Tennessee at Kansas City	12:00
Baltimore at Miami	1:00
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Dallas at St. Louis	12:00
Detroit at Houston	3:05
Indianapolis at Green Bay	3:15
N.Y. Jets at Oakland	1:15
Cleveland at Washington	4:15
Seattle at Tampa Bay	8:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Denver at New England	8:30

EIGHTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

BYES: Chicago, Cincinnati, Denver, Green Bay, Houston, Minnesota

Oakland at Baltimore	1:00
Arizona at Carolina	1:00
Tampa Bay at Dallas	12:00
Washington at Detroit	1:00
Buffalo at Miami	1:00
St. Louis at New England	1:00
San Diego at New Orleans (London)	5:00
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Atlanta at Philadelphia	1:00
Cleveland at Jacksonville	4:05
N.Y. Giants at Pittsburgh	4:15
Seattle at San Francisco	1:15

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Indianapolis at Tennessee	7:30

NINTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

BYES: Carolina, New Orleans, San Diego, San Francisco

N.Y. Jets at Buffalo	1:00
Detroit at Chicago	12:00
Jacksonville at Cincinnati	1:00
Baltimore at Cleveland	1:00
Tampa Bay at Kansas City	12:00
Houston at Minnesota	12:00
Arizona at St. Louis	12:00
Green Bay at Tennessee	12:00
Miami at Denver	2:05
Dallas at N.Y. Giants	4:15
Atlanta at Oakland	1:15
Philadelphia at Seattle	1:15
New England at Indianapolis	8:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Pittsburgh at Washington	8:30

TENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

BYES: Baltimore, Dallas, Tampa Bay, Washington

Denver at Cleveland	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

New Orleans at Atlanta	1:00
Tennessee at Chicago	12:00
Jacksonville at Detroit	1:00
Cincinnati at Houston	12:00
Seattle at Miami	1:00
Green Bay at Minnesota	12:00
Buffalo at New England	1:00
St. Louis at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Carolina at Oakland	1:05
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh	4:15
Kansas City at San Diego	1:15
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia	8:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

San Francisco at Arizona	6:30

ELEVENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

N.Y. Jets at New England	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Denver at Atlanta	1:00
Detroit at Carolina	1:00
Philadelphia at Cincinnati	1:00
Chicago at Green Bay	12:00
Houston at Indianapolis	1:00
Tennessee at Jacksonville	1:00
New Orleans at Kansas City	12:00
Oakland at Miami	1:00
Baltimore at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Minnesota at Tampa Bay	1:00
St. Louis at San Francisco	1:05
Arizona at Seattle	1:05
San Diego at Pittsburgh	4:15
Dallas at Washington *	8:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Cleveland at Buffalo	8:30

TWELFTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Carolina at Atlanta	1:00
Philadelphia at Baltimore	1:00
Houston at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Dallas	12:00
Tampa Bay at Detroit	1:00
Minnesota at Jacksonville	1:00
Buffalo at Kansas City	12:00
New England at Miami	1:00
Chicago at St. Louis	12:00
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee	12:00
Oakland at Denver	2:05
N.Y. Giants at Arizona	2:15
Washington at Seattle	1:15
Indianapolis at San Diego *	5:15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Green Bay at New Orleans	7:30

* Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change

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NFL SCHEDULES

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THIRTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Tennessee at Detroit	12:30
Seattle at Dallas	3:15
Arizona at Philadelphia	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

San Francisco at Buffalo	1:00
Baltimore at Cincinnati	1:00
Indianapolis at Cleveland	1:00
Carolina at Green Bay	12:00
Denver at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Miami at St. Louis	12:00
New Orleans at Tampa Bay	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	1:00
Atlanta at San Diego	1:05
Pittsburgh at New England	4:15
Kansas City at Oakland	1:15
Chicago at Minnesota *	7:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Jacksonville at Houston	7:30

FOURTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Oakland at San Diego	5:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Washington at Baltimore	1:00
Jacksonville at Chicago	12:00
Minnesota at Detroit	1:00
Houston at Green Bay	12:00
Cincinnati at Indianapolis	1:00
Atlanta at New Orleans	12:00
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Cleveland at Tennessee	12:00
Miami at Buffalo (Toronto)	4:05
Kansas City at Denver	2:05
N.Y. Jets at San Francisco	1:05
St. Louis at Arizona	2:15
Dallas at Pittsburgh	4:15
New England at Seattle *	5:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Tampa Bay at Carolina	8:30

FIFTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

New Orleans at Chicago	7:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Tampa Bay at Atlanta	1:00
Pittsburgh at Baltimore	1:00
Denver at Carolina	1:00
Washington at Cincinnati	1:00
Tennessee at Houston	12:00
Detroit at Indianapolis	1:00
Green Bay at Jacksonville	1:00
San Diego at Kansas City	12:00
San Francisco at Miami	1:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Seattle at St. Louis	12:00
Minnesota at Arizona	2:05
New England at Oakland	1:15
N.Y. Giants at Dallas *	7:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Cleveland at Philadelphia	8:30

SIXTEENTH WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Indianapolis at Jacksonville	8:15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Baltimore at Dallas	7:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Cincinnati at Cleveland	1:00
New Orleans at Detroit	1:00
Miami at Kansas City	12:00
Atlanta at Minnesota	12:00
Arizona at New England	1:00
Carolina at N.Y. Giants	1:00
San Francisco at St. Louis	12:00
Pittsburgh at Tennessee	12:00
Philadelphia at Washington	1:00
Buffalo at Denver	2:05
Houston at Oakland	1:05
N.Y. Jets at Seattle	1:05
San Diego at Tampa Bay *	8:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

Green Bay at Chicago	7:30

SEVENTEENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

St. Louis at Atlanta	1:00
Jacksonville at Baltimore	1:00
New England at Buffalo	1:00
Kansas City at Cincinnati	1:00
Detroit at Green Bay	12:00
Chicago at Houston	12:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota	12:00
Carolina at New Orleans	12:00
Miami at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Dallas at Philadelphia	1:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oakland at Tampa Bay	1:00
Seattle at Arizona	2:15
Denver at San Diego	1:15
Washington at San Francisco	1:15

POSTSEASON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (NBC)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4
AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs (CBS and FOX)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
AFC and NFC Championship Games (CBS and FOX)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa, Florida (NBC)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
AFC-NFC Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii (NBC)

NFL NETWORK SCHEDULE

PRESEASON

All times local

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

New England at Tampa Bay	8:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Buffalo at Indianapolis	8:00

REGULAR SEASON

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Denver at Cleveland	8:00

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

N.Y. Jets at New England	8:00

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh	8:00

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Arizona at Philadelphia	8:00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Oakland at San Diego	5:00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

New Orleans at Chicago	7:00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Indianapolis at Jacksonville	8:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Baltimore at Dallas	7:00

NFL NETWORK

ESPN MONDAY NIGHT FOOBALL SCHEDULE

PRESEASON

All times local

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

New Orleans Arizona	5:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Cincinnati at Green Bay	7:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Cleveland at N.Y. Giants	8:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Seattle at San Diego	5:00

REGULAR SEASON

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Minnesota at Green Bay	6:00
Denver at Oakland	7:15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Philadelphia at Dallas	7:30

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

N,Y. Jets at San Diego	5:30

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Baltimore at Pittsburgh	8:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Minnesota at New Orleans	7:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

N.Y. Giants at Cleveland	8:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Denver at New England	8:30

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Indianapolis at Tennessee	7:30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Pittsburgh at Washington	8:30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

San Francisco at Arizona	6:30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Cleveland at Buffalo	8:30

MONDAY. NOVEMBER 24

Green Bay at New Orleans	7:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Jacksonville at Houston	7:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Tampa Bay at Carolina	8:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Cleveland at Philadelphia	8:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

Green Bay at Chicago	7:30

NBC SCHEDULE

PRESEASON

All times local

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Indianapolis vs. Washington at Canton	8:00

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Jacksonville at Washington	7:00

REGULAR SEASON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Washington at N.Y. Giants	7:00

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Chicago at Indianapolis	8:15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Pittsburgh at Cleveland	8:15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Dallas at Green Bay	7:15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Philadelphia at Chicago	7:15

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Pittsburgh at Jacksonville	8:15

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

New England at San Diego	5:15

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Seattle at Tampa Bay	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

New England at Indianapolis	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia	8:15

SUNDAY,NOVEMBER 16

*Dallas at Washington	8:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

*Indianapolis at San Diego	5:15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

*Chicago at Minnesota	7:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

*New England at Seattle	5:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

*N.Y. Giants at Dallas	7:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

*San Diego at Tampa Bay	8:15

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
*No game scheduled

*Games subject to change per flex scheduling. Week 17 game to be determined no later than six days in advance.

RATING THE TEAMS

The following chart is a compilation of the position ratings for each team that was included in the preview stories. Each unit is rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Intangibles had a plus or minus of no more than 2. That figure was added or subtracted from the total of all positions.

	COACH	QB	RB	REC	OL	DL	LB	SEC	ST	INT	TOTAL
NFC EAST											
N.Y. Giants	9.0	8.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	7.5	7.5	8.0	-2	71.0
Dallas	8.5	8.5	7.5	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.0	7.0	8.0	-1	70.0
Philadelphia	9.0	8.0	8.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	-1	70.0
Washington	6.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	-1	64.0
NFC NORTH											
Minnesota	6.5	6.0	9.0	6.5	7.0	9.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	+1	66.0
Green Bay	8.0	5.5	7.0	8.0	7.5	7.5	8.0	7.5	7.5	-2	64.5
Chicago	7.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	7.5	8.5	7.5	9.0	-2	61.5
Detroit	6.5	7.0	6.5	9.0	6.5	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	-2	61.0
NFC SOUTH											
New Orleans	7.5	9.0	7.5	7.5	8.0	7.5	7.0	6.0	7.0	+1	68.0
Carolina	8.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.5	8.0	7.0	7.0	+2	66.5
Tampa Bay	8.0	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.5	+2	65.0
Atlanta	6.5	6.0	7.0	6.5	5.5	6.0	8.0	6.5	8.0	E	60.0
NFC WEST											
Seattle	8.5	8.0	5.5	6.0	7.0	7.5	8.5	8.0	6.0	+2	67.0
St. Louis	7.0	7.5	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	-1	66.0
San Francisco	6.5	6.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	9.0	E	66.0
Arizona	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.5	7.0	7.5	7.0	7.5	6.5	-1	64.0
AFC EAST											
New England	10.0	9.5	7.5	9.5	8.5	8.5	8.0	6.5	7.0	+1	76.0
Buffalo	7.5	6.5	8.0	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	8.0	+2	69.5
Miami	6.5	6.0	7.5	6.0	8.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	+2	63.5
N.Y. Jets	6.5	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	8.0	E	62.5
AFC NORTH											
Cleveland	7.5	7.5	7.5	9.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	9.0	+2	70.5
Baltimore	7.0	6.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	9.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	E	67.0
Pittsburgh	7.0	9.0	7.5	7.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	6.5	6.0	E	63.0
Cincinnati	7.5	8.5	6.5	8.0	7.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	-2	61.5
AFC SOUTH											
Indianapolis	10.0	9.5	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	7.5	+2	75.5
Jacksonville	8.0	8.0	8.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	8.0	7.0	8.0	+1	69.0
Tennessee	8.5	7.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	+1	67.0
Houston	7.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	+1	65.0
AFC WEST											
San Diego	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	7.0	8.0	+2	75.0
Denver	8.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.0	6.0	8.5	5.5	-1	61.0
Oakland	6.0	5.5	7.5	7.5	7.0	6.0	7.5	8.0	7.0	-1	61.0
Kansas City	7.5	6.0	8.0	7.5	5.5	6.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	-1	56.5

Key: QB=Quarterbacks; RB=Running Backs; REC=Wide Receivers/Tight Ends; OL=Offensive Linemen; DL=Defensive Linemen; LB=Linebackers; SEC=Secondary; ST=Special Teams; INT=Intangibles

NFC FINAL STATISTICS

PASSING

	Att	Pct Comp	Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Lng	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Romo, Dal.	520	335	64.4	4211	8.1	36	6.9	59t	19	3.7	97.4
Favre, G.B.	535	356	66.5	4155	7.77	28	5.2	82t	15	2.8	95.7
Garcia, T.B.	327	209	63.9	2440	7.46	13	4.0	69t	4	1.2	94.6
Hasselbeck, Sea.	562	352	62.6	3966	7.06	28	5.0	65	12	2.1	91.4
McNabb, Phi.	473	291	61.5	3324	7.03	19	4.0	75t	7	1.5	89.9
Warner, Ariz.	451	281	62.3	3417	7.58	27	6.0	62	17	3.8	89.8
Brees, N.O.	652	440	67.5	4423	6.78	28	4.3	58	18	2.8	89.4
Kitna, Det.	561	355	63.3	4068	7.25	18	3.2	91t	20	3.6	80.9
Campbell, Was.	417	250	60.0	2700	6.47	12	2.9	54	11	2.6	77.6
Harrington, Atl.	348	215	61.8	2215	6.36	7	2.0	69t	8	2.3	77.2
Griese, Chi.	262	161	61.5	1803	6.88	10	3.8	81t	12	4.6	75.6
Manning, NYG	529	297	56.1	3336	6.31	23	4.3	60t	20	3.8	73.9
Jackson, Min.	294	171	58.2	1911	6.5	9	3.1	71	12	4.1	70.8
Bulger, St.L	378	221	58.5	2392	6.33	11	2.9	40	15	4.0	70.3
Grossman, Chi.	225	122	54.2	1411	6.27	4	1.8	59t	7	3.1	66.4
(Nonqualifiers)											
Delhomme, Car.	86	55	64.0	624	7.26	8	9.3	74t	1	1.2	111.8
Collins, Was.	105	67	63.8	888	8.46	5	4.8	54	0	0.0	106.4
Rodgers, G.B.	28	20	71.4	218	7.79	1	3.6	43	0	0.0	106
Hill, S.F.	79	54	68.4	501	6.34	5	6.3	26	1	1.3	101.3
Wallace, Sea.	28	19	67.9	215	7.68	2	7.1	45t	1	3.6	99.6
McCown, T.B.	139	94	67.6	1009	7.26	5	3.6	60	3	2.2	91.7
Redman, Atl.	149	89	59.7	1079	7.24	10	6.7	74t	5	3.4	90.4
Bollinger, Min.	50	33	66.0	391	7.82	1	2.0	50	1	2.0	88
Nall, G.B.	15	7	46.7	88	5.87	1	6.7	32t	0	0.0	87.6
Weinke, S.F.	22	13	59.1	104	4.73	1	4.5	21	0	0.0	86.2
Johnson, Dal.	11	7	63.6	79	7.18	0	0.0	35	0	0.0	85
Orton, Chi.	80	43	53.8	478	5.98	3	3.80	55t	2	2.5	73.9
Holcomb, Min.	83	42	50.6	515	6.2	2	2.4	40	1	1.2	73.1
Rattay, Ariz.	27	15	55.6	164	6.07	3	11.1	42	3	11.1	71.1
Moore, Car.	111	63	56.8	730	6.58	3	2.7	57	5	4.5	67
Testaverde, Car.	172	94	54.7	952	5.53	5	2.9	65t	6	3.5	65.8

RUSHING

	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Peterson, Min	238	1341	5.6	73t	12
Westbrook, Phi.	278	1333	4.8	36	7
Portis, Was	325	1262	3.9	32	11
James, Ariz	324	1222	3.8	27	7
Gore, S.F.	260	1102	4.2	43t	5
Jacobs, NY-G	202	1009	5	43t	4
Jackson, St.L	237	1002	4.2	54	5
Barber, Dal.	204	975	4.8	54	10
Grant, G.B	188	956	5.1	66t	8
Graham, T.B	222	898	4	28t	10
Foster, Car.	247	876	3.5	20	3
Taylor, Min.	157	844	5.4	84t	7
Dunn, Atl.	227	720	3.2	38	4
Williams, Car.	144	717	5	75	4
Alexander, Sea	207	716	3.5	25	4
Benson, Chi	196	674	3.4	43t	4
Morris, Sea	140	628	4.5	46	4
Norwood, Atl	103	613	6	67t	1
Ward, NY-G	125	602	4.8	44	3
Jones, Dal	164	588	3.6	25	2
Bush, N.O.	157	581	3.7	22	4
Jones, Det.	153	581	3.8	34	8
Peterson, Chi.	151	510	3.4	21	3
Stecker, N.O.	115	448	3.9	26	5
Betts, Was.	93	335	3.6	20	1
Duckett, Det.	65	335	5.2	53	3
Buckhalter, Phi	62	313	5	30t	4
Leonard, St.L	86	303	3.5	31	0
Pittman, T.B	68	286	4.2	29	0
Droughns, NY-G	85	275	3.2	45	6
Jackson, G.B	75	267	3.6	46	1
Jackson, Min	54	260	4.8	32	3
Thomas, N.O.	52	252	4.8	24t	1
Bennett, K.C.-T.B.	61	241	4	28	1
McNabb, Phi	50	236	4.7	40	0

PASS RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Fitzgerald, Ariz.	100	1409	14.1	48t	10
Colston, N.O.	98	1202	12.3	45	11
Witten, Dal.	96	1145	11.9	53	7
Engram, Sea.	94	1147	12.2	49	6
Holt, St.L	93	1189	12.8	40	7
Westbrook, Phi.	90	771	8.60	57t	5
Smith, Car.	87	1002	11.5	74t	7
White, Atl.	83	1202	14.5	69t	6
Driver, G.B.	82	1048	12.8	47	2
Owens, Dal.	81	1355	16.7	52t	15
McDonald, Det.	79	943	11.9	49t	6
Curtis, Phi.	77	1110	14.4	75t	6
Bush, N.O.	73	417	5.7	25	2
Berrian, Chi.	71	951	13.4	59t	5
Boldin, Ariz.	71	853	12.0	44t	9
Burress, NYG	70	1025	14.6	60t	12
Cooley, Was.	66	786	11.9	39t	8
Williams, Det.	64	838	13.1	91t	5
Hilliard, T.B.	62	722	11.6	56	1
Moss, Was.	61	808	13.2	49	3
Brown, Phi.	61	780	12.8	45t	4
Furrey, Det.	61	664	10.9	49	1
Toomer, NYG	59	760	12.9	40	3

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Galloway, T.B.	57	1014	17.8	69t	6
Shockey, NYG	57	619	10.9	29	3
Bruce, St.L	55	733	13.3	37	4
Patten, N.O.	54	792	14.7	58	3
Wade, Min	54	647	12.0	40	3
Jennings, G.B.	53	920	17.4	82t	12
Jenkins, Atl.	53	532	10.0	29	4
Gore, S.F.	53	436	8.20	23t	1
Davis, S.F.	52	509	9.80	31	4
Randle El, Was.	51	728	14.3	54	1
Peterson, Chi.	51	420	8.20	30	0
Crayton, Dal.	50	697	13.9	59t	7
Burleson, Sea.	50	694	13.9	45t	9
Battle, S.F.	50	600	12.0	57t	5
Branch, Sea.	49	661	13.5	65	4
Graham, T.B.	49	324	6.60	21	0
Johnson, Det.	48	756	15.8	49	4
Lee, G.B.	48	575	12.0	60	6
Johnson, N.O.	48	378	7.90	22	2
Jones, G.B.	47	676	14.4	79t	2
Portis, Was.	47	389	8.30	54	0
Johnson, Ariz.	46	528	11.5	30	2
Jackson, S.F.	46	497	10.8	34	3

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
King, Car.	46	406	8.8	29	2
Clark, Chi.	44	545	12.4	52	4
Barber, Dal.	44	282	6.4	29	2
Crumpler, Atl.	42	444	10.6	55t	5
Muhammad, Chi.	40	570	14.3	44	3
McMichael, St.L	39	429	11.0	29t	3
Olsen, Chi.	39	391	10.0	31	2
Weaver, Sea.	39	313	8.00	46	0
Carter, Car.	38	517	13.6	49	4
Jackson, St.L	38	271	7.10	37	1
Robinson, Atl.	37	437	11.8	74t	1
Dunn, Atl.	37	238	6.40	35	0
Stecker, N.O.	36	211	5.90	26	0
Bennett, St.L	33	375	11.4	24	3
Ferguson, Min.	32	391	12.2	71	1
Smith, T.B.	32	385	12.0	33	3
Hackett, Sea.	32	384	12.0	59	3
Colbert, Car.	32	332	10.4	43	0
Moore, N.O.	32	302	9.40	22	2
Jones, Det.	32	197	6.20	16	0
Rice, Min.	31	396	12.8	60t	4
Morency, G.B.	30	199	6.60	18	0
Leonard, St.L	30	183	6.10	16	0

Williams, T.B.	54	208	3.9	20	3
Wynn, G.B.	50	203	4.1	44	4
Bradshaw, NYG	23	190	8.3	88t	1
Campbell, Was.	36	185	5.1	29	1
Bell, Det.	44	182	4.1	24	1
Weaver, Sea.	33	146	4.4	37	1
Pittman, St.L	38	139	3.7	43	0
Romo, Dal.	31	129	4.2	17	2
Robinson, S.F.	26	121	4.7	28	0
Hicks, S.F.	21	117	5.6	18	1
McCown, T.B.	12	117	9.8	31	0
Garcia, T.B.	35	116	3.3	21	1
Moore, Min.	20	113	5.7	17	0
Morency, G.B.	29	108	3.7	15	0
McAllister, N.O.	24	92	3.8	15	0
Hasselbeck, Sea.	39	89	2.3	12	0
Smith, S.F.	13	89	6.8	25	0

INTERCEPTIONS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Atogwe, St.L	8	125	15.6	52t	1
Trufant, Sea.	7	150	21.4	84t	1
Henry, Dal.	6	81	13.5	28t	1
Rolle, Ariz.	5	231	46.2	57	3
Hood, Ariz.	5	196	39.2	71t	2
Urlacher, Chi.	5	101	20.2	85t	1
Taylor, Was.	5	98	19.6	48	0
Hamlin, Dal.	5	93	18.6	35	0
Hall, Atl.	5	80	16.0	33	0
Bigby, G.B.	5	50	10.0	22	0
Newman, Dal.	4	129	32.3	70	1
Tatupu, Sea.	4	116	29.0	49	0
Smith, Min.	4	112	28.0	93t	1
Clements, S.F.	4	74	18.5	62	0
Springs, Was.	4	63	15.8	53	0
Sharper, Min.	4	61	15.3	41	1
Madison, NYG	4	59	14.8	27	0
Brown, St.L	4	48	12.0	36t	1
Woodson, G.B.	4	48	12.0	46t	1
Harris, S.F.	4	42	10.5	23	0
Wilson, NY-G	4	12	3.0	10	0
Phillips, T.B.	4	2	0.5	2	0
McKenzie, N.O.	3	161	53.7	75t	2
Marshall, Car.	3	107	35.7	73t	1
Smith, Det.	3	64	21.3	64t	1
Harper, N.O.	3	58	19.3	31t	1
Dansby, Ariz.	3	55	18.3	28	0
Ross, NY-G	3	51	17.0	43t	1
Crocker, Atl.	3	40	13.3	18	0
Fletcher, Was.	3	36	12.0	27t	1
Grant, Sea.	3	34	11.3	34	0
Tillman, Chi	3	24	8.0	20	0
Buchanon, T.B.	3	22	7.3	19	0
David, N.O.	3	21	7.0	19	0

SCORING-KICKER

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Crosby, G.B.	48	48	31	39	141
Folk, Dal.	53	53	26	31	131
Brown, Sea.	43	43	28	34	127
Gould, Chi.	33	33	31	36	126
Hanson, Det.	35	36	29	35	122
Bryant, T.B.	34	34	28	33	118
Suisham, Was.	29	30	29	35	116
Rackers, Ariz.	47	48	21	30	110
Tynes, NYG	40	42	23	27	109
Akers, Phi.	36	36	24	32	108
Andersen, Atl.	24	24	25	28	99
Kasay, Car.	27	27	24	28	99
Longwell, Min.	39	40	20	24	99
Wilkins, St.L	25	25	24	32	97
Nedney, S.F.	22	22	17	19	73
Mare, N.O.	34	34	10	17	64
Gramatica, N.O.	8	8	5	5	23
Prater, Atl.	1	1	1	4	4
Koenen, Atl.	0	0	0	2	0

SCORING-NONKICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	X2G	PTS
Owens, Dal.	15	0	15	0	0	90
Peterson, Min.	13	12	1	0	0	78
Barber, Dal.	12	10	2	0	0	72
Burress, NY-G	12	0	12	0	0	72
Jennings, G.B.	12	0	12	0	0	72
Westbrook, Phi.	12	7	5	0	0	72
Burleson, Sea.	11	0	9	2	0	66
Colston, N.O.	11	0	11	0	0	66
Portis, Was.	11	11	0	0	0	66
Fitzgerald, Ariz.	10	0	10	0	0	60
Graham, T.B.	10	10	0	0	0	60
Boldin, Ariz.	9	0	9	0	0	54
Cooley, Was.	8	0	8	0	1	50
Curtis, Phi.	8	0	6	2	0	48
Grant, G.B.	8	8	0	0	0	48
Hester, Chi.	8	0	2	6	0	48
Jones, Det.	8	8	0	0	0	48
Holt, St.L	7	0	7	0	1	44
Bush, N.O.	6	4	2	0	3	42
Crayton, Dal.	7	0	7	0	0	42
James, Ariz.	7	7	0	0	0	42
Smith, Car.	7	0	7	0	0	42
Taylor, Min.	7	7	0	0	0	42
Witten, Dal.	7	0	7	0	0	42
Battle, S.F.	6	1	5	0	0	36
Droughns, NYG	6	6	0	0	0	36
Engram, Sea.	6	0	6	0	0	36
Galloway, T.B.	6	0	6	0	0	36
Gore, S.F.	6	5	1	0	0	36
Jackson, St.L	6	5	1	0	0	36
Gaffney, N.E.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Gonzalez, K.C.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Mason, Bal.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Scheffler, Den.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Stokley, Den.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Taylor, Jac.	5	5	0	0	0	30
Walter, Hou.	5	0	4	1	0	30
Washington, Pit.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Curry, Oak.	4	0	4	0	2	28
Gado, Hou.-Mia.	4	4	0	0	1	26
Johnson, Cin.	4	3	1	0	1	26
Chambers, S.D.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Fargas, Oak.	4	4	0	0	0	24
Henry, Den.	4	4	0	0	0	24
Johnson, K.C.	4	3	1	0	0	24
Jones, Jac.	4	2	2	0	0	24
Jones, Jac.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Keith, Ind.	4	3	1	0	0	24
Lemon, Mia.	4	4	0	0	0	24
Northcutt, Jac.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Sproles, S.D.	4	2	0	2	0	24
Williams, Ten.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Jurevicius, Cle.	3	0	3	0	1	20

PUNT RETURNS

	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Hester, Chi.	42	6	651	15.5	89t	4
Burleson, Sea.	58	8	658	11.3	94t	1
* Breaston, Ariz .	42	6	395	9.4	73t	1
Moore, N.O.	20	15	185	9.3	48	0
Crayton, Dal.	22	20	201	9.1	49	0
* Robinson, Car.	30	19	262	8.7	34	0
Woodson, G.B.	33	5	268	8.1	34	0
Mahe, Phi.	31	11	249	8.0	32	0
Lewis, S.F.	44	4	336	7.6	51	0
McQuarters, NYG	42	18	318	7.6	27	0
Jennings, Atl.	30	17	186	6.2	23	0
Randle El, Was.	34	7	209	6.1	27	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
* Allison, Min.	20	574	28.7	104t	1
Cartwright, Was.	52	1339	25.8	80	0
Austin, Dal.	24	612	25.5	60	0
* Stanley, St.L	20	509	25.5	49	0
Norwood, Atl.	52	1317	25.3	76	0
Hall, St.L	29	729	25.1	84	0
Cason, Det.	42	1041	24.8	74	0
Hixon, Den.-NYG	20	495	24.8	74t	1
* Bradshaw, NYG	38	921	24.2	68	0
* Thomas, N.O.	36	865	24.0	64	0
Hicks, S.F.	63	1502	23.8	55	0
Robinson, G.B.	25	596	23.8	67	0
Thompson, Dal.	20	471	23.6	72	0
Williams, St.L	22	508	23.1	37	0
* Robinson, Car.	26	598	23.0	60	0
Williams, G.B.	30	684	22.8	65	0

TEAM SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XKG	XKAtt	X2G	X2Att	FG	FGA	SAF	PTS
Dallas	54	14	36	4	53	53	0	1	26	31	0	455
Green Bay	49	13	30	6	48	48	0	0	31	39	0	435
Arizona	49	9	32	8	47	48	0	1	21	30	0	404
Seattle	44	9	30	5	43	43	0	1	28	34	1	393
New Orleans	47	14	28	5	42	42	4	5	15	22	1	379
N.Y. Giants	44	15	23	6	40	42	0	2	23	27	0	373
Minnesota	43	22	12	9	39	40	3	3	20	24	1	365
Detroit	37	13	19	5	35	36	0	1	29	35	1	346
Philadelphia	38	12	24	2	36	36	0	2	24	32	0	336
Chicago	34	8	18	8	33	33	1	1	31	36	1	334
Tampa Bay	36	15	18	3	34	34	0	2	28	33	0	334
Washington	35	15	18	2	29	30	2	5	29	35	2	334
Carolina	28	7	19	2	27	27	0	1	24	28	0	267
St. Louis	27	5	19	3	25	25	1	2	24	32	1	263
Atlanta	26	7	18	1	25	25	0	1	26	34	0	259
San Francisco	24	8	15	1	22	22	0	1	17	19	1	219

PUNTING

	No	Yds	Long	Avg	Punts	TB	Total Blk	Opp Ret	Ret Yds	In 20	Net Avg
Lee, S.F.	105	4968	74	47.3	105	13	0	53	402	42	41.0
Jones, St. Louis	78	3684	80	47.2	78	9	0	48	437	18	39.3
McBriar, Dal.	63	2970	64	47.1	63	7	0	35	406	17	38.5
Kluwe, Min.	81	3621	70	44.7	81	9	0	43	440	34	37.0
Ryan, G.B.	60	2664	72	44.4	62	11	2	19	113	18	37.6
Harris, Det.	68	3010	58	44.3	68	5	0	36	434	26	36.4
Baker, Car.	90	3978	64	44.2	90	5	0	54	485	22	37.7
Bidwell, T.B.	77	3382	61	43.9	78	10	1	38	280	30	37.2
Weatherford, N.O.	63	2757	61	43.8	63	4	0	35	335	20	37.2
Koenen, Atl.	88	3824	63	43.5	88	5	0	41	307	30	38.8
*Rocca, Phi.	73	3066	65	42.0	73	7	0	36	409	24	34.5
Maynard, Chi.	88	3682	56	41.8	88	9	0	38	214	27	37.4
Frost, Was.	75	3072	64	41.0	75	7	0	32	202	23	36.4
Barr, Ariz.	59	2385	61	40.4	60	5	1	28	384	15	31.7
Feagles, NYG	71	2865	60	40.4	72	5	1	28	173	25	36.0
Plackemeier, Sea.	86	3436	62	40.0	86	6	0	37	362	30	34.3

AFC FINAL STATISTICS

PASSING

	Att	Pct Comp	Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Lng	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Brady, N.E.	578	398	68.9	4806	8.31	50	8.7	69t	8	1.4	117.2
Roethlisberger, Pit.	404	264	65.3	3154	7.81	32	7.9	83	11	2.7	104.1
Garrard, Jac.	325	208	64.0	2509	7.72	18	5.5	59t	3	0.9	102.2
Manning, Ind.	515	337	65.4	4040	7.84	31	6.0	73t	14	2.7	98
Cutler, Den.	467	297	63.6	3497	7.49	20	4.3	68t	14	3.0	88.1
Schaub, Hou.	289	192	66.4	2241	7.75	9	3.1	77t	9	3.1	87.2
Palmer, Cin.	575	373	64.9	4131	7.18	26	4.5	70t	20	3.5	86.7
Pennington, NYJ	260	179	68.8	1765	6.79	10	3.8	57t	9	3.5	86.1
Rosenfels, Hou.	240	154	64.2	1684	7.02	15	6.3	53t	12	5.0	84.8
Anderson, Cle.	527	298	56.5	3787	7.19	29	5.5	78t	19	3.6	82.5
Rivers, S.D	460	277	60.2	3152	6.85	21	4.6	49t	15	3.3	82.4
Huard, K.C.	332	206	62.0	2257	6.80	11	3.3	58	13	3.9	76.8
Boller, Bal.	275	168	61.1	1743	6.34	9	3.3	53	10	3.6	75.2
Young, Ten.	382	238	62.3	2546	6.66	9	2.4	73	17	4.5	71.1
Lemon, Mia.	309	173	56.0	1773	5.74	6	1.9	64t	6	1.9	71
Edwards, Buf.	269	151	56.1	1630	6.06	7	2.6	70t	8	3.0	70.4
Croyle, K.C.	224	127	56.7	1227	5.48	6	2.7	35	6	2.7	69.9
Clemens, NYJ	250	130	52.0	1529	6.12	5	2.0	56	10	4.0	60.9
(Nonqualifiers)											
Gray, Jac.	144	80	55.6	986	6.85	10	6.9	80t	5	3.5	85.6
Collins, Ten.	82	50	61.0	531	6.48	0	0	46	0	0	79.9
Smith, Bal.	76	40	52.6	452	5.95	2	2.6	79t	0	0	79.5
Culpepper, Oak.	186	108	58.1	1331	7.16	5	2.7	59	5	2.7	78
Losman, Buf.	175	111	63.4	1204	6.88	4	2.3	85t	6	3.4	76.9
McNair, Bal.	205	133	64.9	1113	5.43	2	1.0	30	4	2.0	73.9
Ramsey, Den.	48	29	60.4	262	5.46	1	2.1	21	1	2.1	73.4
Green, Mia.	141	85	60.3	987	7.00	5	3.5	43	7	5.0	72.6
McCown, Oak.	190	111	58.4	1151	6.06	10	5.3	46t	11	5.8	69.4
Sorgi, Ind.	36	18	50.0	132	3.67	1	2.8	12	0	0	68.3
Beck, Mia.	107	60	56.1	559	5.22	1	0.9	22t	3	2.8	62
Russell, Oak.	66	36	54.5	373	5.65	2	3.0	32t	4	6.1	55.9
Batch, Pit.	36	17	47.2	232	6.44	2	5.6	59t	3	8.3	52.1
Frye, Cle.	10	4	40.0	34	3.40	0	0	15	1	10.0	10
Volek, S.D.	10	3	30.0	6	0.60	0	0	4	1	10.0	0

RUSHING

	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Tomlinson, S.D.	315	1474	4.7	49	15
Parker, Pit.	321	1316	4.1	32	2
Lewis, Cle.	298	1304	4.4	66t	9
McGahee, Bal.	294	1207	4.1	46t	7
Taylor, Jac.	223	1202	5.4	80t	5
Jones, NYJ	310	1119	3.6	36	1
Lynch, Buf.	280	1115	4.0	56t	7
White, Ten.	303	1110	3.7	28	7
Addai, Ind.	261	1072	4.1	23	12
Fargas, Oak.	222	1009	4.5	48	4
Maroney, N.E.	185	835	4.5	59t	6
Dayne, Hou.	194	773	4.0	39	6
Jones-Drew, Jac.	167	768	4.6	57t	9
Watson, Cin.	178	763	4.3	24	7
Young, Den.	140	729	5.2	50	1
Henry, Den.	167	691	4.1	33	4
Brown, Mia.	119	602	5.1	60	4
Johnson, K.C.	158	559	3.5	54	3
Jordan, Oak.	144	549	3.8	33	3
Keith, Ind.	121	533	4.4	22	3
Chatman, Mia.	128	515	4.0	30	1
Davenport, Pit.	107	499	4.7	45	5
Johnson, Cin.	170	497	2.9	22	3
Brown, Ten.	102	462	4.5	42	5
Smith, K.C.	112	407	3.6	19	2
Young, Ten.	93	395	4.2	21	3
Morris, N.E.	85	384	4.5	49	3
Washington, NYJ	71	353	5.0	49	3
Turner, S.D.	71	316	4.5	74t	1
Rhodes, Oak.	75	302	4.0	25	1
Jackson, Buf.	58	300	5.2	27	0
Wright, Cle.	60	277	4.6	18	1
Faulk, N.E.	62	265	4.3	14	0
Smith, Bal.	75	264	3.5	24	2
Walker, Hou.	58	264	4.6	41	1

PASS RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Welker, N.E	112	1175	10.5	42	8
Houshmandzadeh, Cin.	112	1143	10.2	42t	12
Wayne, Ind.	104	1510	14.5	64	10
Mason, Bal.	103	1087	10.6	79t	5
Marshall, Den.	102	1325	13.0	68t	7
Gonzalez, K.C.	99	1172	11.8	31	5
Moss, N.E.	98	1493	15.2	65t	23
Johnson, Cin.	93	1440	15.5	70t	8
Cotchery, NYJ	82	1130	13.8	50	2
Winslow, Cle.	82	1106	13.5	49	5
Edwards, Cle.	80	1289	16.1	78t	16
Gates, S.D.	75	984	13.1	49t	9
Ward, Pit.	71	732	10.3	25	7
Bowe, K.C.	70	995	14.2	58	5
Chambers, Mia.-S.D.	66	970	14.7	44	4
Walter, Hou.	65	800	12.3	46	4
Daniels, Hou.	63	768	12.2	29	3
Johnson, Hou.	60	851	14.2	77t	8
Tomlinson, S.D.	60	475	7.90	36	3
Clark, Ind.	58	616	10.6	39	11
Evans, Buf.	55	849	15.4	85t	5

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Gage, Ten.	55	750	13.6	73	2
Williams, Ten.	55	719	13.1	48	4
Curry, Oak.	55	717	13.0	49	4
Coles, NYJ	55	646	11.7	57t	6
Holmes, Pit.	52	942	18.1	83	8
Watson, Cin.	52	374	7.2	43	0
Reed, Buf.	51	578	11.3	30	0
Jurevicius, Cle.	50	614	12.3	50	3
Booker, Mia.	50	556	11.1	26	1
Scheffler, Den.	49	549	11.2	41	5
Clayton, Bal.	48	531	11.1	52	0
Miller, Pit.	47	566	12.0	29	7
Faulk, N.E.	47	383	8.10	23	1
Stallworth, N.E.	46	697	15.2	69t	3
Scaife, Ten.	46	421	9.20	26	1
Wilford, Jac.	45	518	11.5	35	3
Porter, Oak.	44	705	16.0	59	6
Northcutt, Jac.	44	601	13.7	55t	4
Miller, Oak.	44	444	10.1	28	3
McGahee, Bal.	43	231	5.40	30	1
Jackson, S.D.	41	623	15.2	45	3

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Baker, NYJ	41	409	10.0	22	3
Addai, Ind.	41	364	8.9	73t	3
Stokley, Den.	40	635	15.9	58	5
Jones-Drew, Jac.	40	407	10.2	43	0
Brown, Mia.	39	389	10.0	43	1
Williams, Jac.	38	629	16.6	80t	10
Gonzalez, Ind.	37	576	15.6	57t	3
Lewis, Jac.	37	391	10.6	25	2
Gaffney, N.E.	36	449	12.5	56t	5
Watson, N.E.	36	389	10.8	35	6
Washington, NYJ	36	213	5.90	18	0
Parrish, Buf.	35	352	10.1	47t	1
Young, Den.	35	231	6.60	24	0
Ginn, Mia.	34	420	12.4	54	2
Martin, Mia.	34	303	8.90	28	2
Sypniewski, Bal.	34	246	7.20	13	1
Davis, Hou.	33	583	17.7	53t	3
Moulds, Ten.	32	342	10.7	46	0
Smith, NYJ	32	325	10.2	29	2
Utecht, Ind.	31	364	11.7	30	1
Lewis, Cle.	30	248	8.30	34	2

RUSHING, CONT.	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Green, Hou.	70	260	3.7	18	2
Hall, Den.	44	216	4.9	62t	2
Cutler, Den.	44	205	4.7	31	1
Roethlisberger, Pit.	35	204	5.8	30t	2
Garrard, Jac.	49	185	3.8	19	1
Dorsey, Cin.	21	183	8.7	45	0
Sproles, S.D.	37	164	4.4	34	2
Gado, Hou.-Mia.	53	150	2.8	20t	4
McCown, Oak.	29	143	4.9	24	0
Harrison, Cle.	23	142	6.2	17	0
Holmes, K.C.	46	137	3.0	11	0
Booker, Mia.	28	125	4.5	22	0
Evans, N.E.	34	121	3.6	11	3
Henry, Ten.	31	119	3.8	24t	2
Jones, Jac.	42	119	2.8	11	2

INTERCEPTIONS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Cromartie, S.D.	10	144	14.4	70t	1
Reed, Bal.	7	130	18.6	32	0
Howard, Oak.	6	172	28.7	66t	2
Samuel, N.E	6	89	14.8	42	1
Bodden, Cle.	6	75	12.5	26	0
Nelson, Jac.	5	76	15.2	37	0
Rhodes, NYJ	5	76	15.2	36	0
Hart, S.D.	5	73	14.6	22	0
Bly, Den.	5	71	14.2	37	0
Bulluck, Ten.	5	63	12.6	35	0
Jones, Cle.	5	37	7.40	26	0
Hall, Cin.	5	16	3.20	12	0
Brackett, Ind.	4	128	320	49	0
Morrison, Oak.	4	94	23.5	45	0
Joseph, Cin.	4	76	19.0	42t	1
Bethea, Ind.	4	47	11.8	30	0
Knight, Jac.	4	31	7.80	15	0
McGee, Buf.	4	4	1.00	2	0
Harper, Ten.	3	62	20.7	32	0
Taylor, Pit.	3	56	18.7	51t	1
Gay, N.E.	3	52	17.3	31	0
Bennett, Hou.	3	47	15.7	33	0
Ndukwe, Cin.	3	44	14.7	44	0
Page, K.C.	3	37	12.3	37	0
Routt, Oak.	3	31	10.3	31	0
Seau, N.E.	3	28	9.30	23	0
McCree, S.D.	3	20	6.70	19	0
Revis, NYJ	3	20	6.70	19	0
Hayden, Ind.	3	17	5.70	20	0
Allen, Mia.	3	15	5.00	13	0
Wilhelm, S.D.	3	11	3.70	7	0
Williams, Jac.	3	10	3.30	6	0
Bailey, Den.	3	3	1.00	3	0
Griffin, Ten.	3	3	1.00	3	0

SCORING-KICKER

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Gostkowski, N.E.	74	74	21	24	137
Bironas, Ten.	28	28	35	39	133
Graham, Cin.	37	37	31	34	130
Dawson, Cle.	42	43	26	30	120
Kaeding, S.D.	46	46	24	27	118
Vinatieri, Ind.	49	51	23	29	118
Brown, Hou.	40	40	25	29	115
Elam, Den.	33	33	27	31	114
Reed, Pit.	44	44	23	25	113
Nugent, NYJ	23	24	29	36	110
Stover, Bal.	26	26	27	32	107
Janikowski, Oak.	28	28	23	32	97
Lindell, Buf.	24	24	24	27	96
Feely, Mia.	26	26	21	23	89
Carney, Jac.-K.C.	27	28	12	14	63
Scobee, Jac.	26	27	12	13	62
Rayner, K.C.	14	14	15	22	59
Medlock, K.C.	0	0	1	2	3

SCORING-NONKICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	X2G	PTS
Moss, N.E.	23	0	23	0	0	138
Tomlinson, S.D.	18	15	3	0	0	108
Edwards, Cle.	16	0	16	0	0	96
Addai, Ind.	15	12	3	0	1	92
Houshmandzadeh, Cin.	12	0	12	0	0	72
Clark, Ind.	11	0	11	0	0	66
Lewis, Cle.	11	9	2	0	0	66
Jones-Drew, Jac.	10	9	0	1	0	60
Wayne, Ind.	10	0	10	0	0	60
Williams, Jac.	10	0	10	0	0	60
Gates, S.D.	9	0	9	0	0	54
Holmes, Pit.	8	0	8	0	1	50
Johnson, Hou.	8	0	8	0	0	48
Johnson, Cin.	8	0	8	0	0	48
McGahee, Bal.	8	7	1	0	0	48
Welker, N.E.	8	0	8	0	0	48
Lynch, Buf.	7	7	0	0	1	44
Ward, Pit.	7	0	7	0	1	44
Davenport, Pit.	7	5	2	0	0	42
Marshall, Den.	7	0	7	0	0	42
Miller, Pit.	7	0	7	0	0	42
Watson, Cin.	7	7	0	0	0	42
White, Ten.	7	7	0	0	0	42
Davis, Hou.	6	0	3	3	1	38
Maroney, N.E.	6	6	0	0	1	38
Washington, NYJ	6	3	0	3	1	38
Coles, NYJ	6	0	6	0	0	36
Dayne, Hou.	6	6	0	0	0	36
Porter, Oak.	6	0	6	0	0	36
Watson, N.E.	6	0	6	0	0	36
Brown, Mia.	5	4	1	0	1	32
Winslow, Cle.	5	0	5	0	1	32
Bowe, K.C.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Brown, Ten.	5	5	0	0	0	30
Evans, Buf.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Gaffney, N.E.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Gonzalez, K.C.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Mason, Bal.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Scheffler, Den.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Stokley, Den.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Taylor, Jac.	5	5	0	0	0	30
Walter, Hou.	5	0	4	1	0	30
Washington, Pit.	5	0	5	0	0	30
Curry, Oak.	4	0	4	0	2	28
Gado, Hou.-Mia.	4	4	0	0	1	26
Johnson, Cin.	4	3	1	0	1	26
Chambers, S.D.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Fargas, Oak.	4	4	0	0	0	24
Henry, Den.	4	4	0	0	0	24
Johnson, K.C.	4	3	1	0	0	24
Jones, Jac.	4	2	2	0	0	24
Jones, Jac.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Keith, Ind.	4	3	1	0	0	24
Lemon, Mia.	4	4	0	0	0	24
Northcutt, Jac.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Sproles, S.D.	4	2	0	2	0	24
Williams, Ten.	4	0	4	0	0	24
Jurevicius, Cle.	3	0	3	0	1	20

PUNT RETURNS

	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Parrish, Buf.	27	2	440	16.3	74t	1
Cribbs, Cle.	30	10	405	13.5	76t	1
Welker, N.E.	25	7	249	10.0	35	0
Ginn, Mia.	24	15	230	9.60	87t	1
Sproles, S.D	24	2	229	9.50	45t	1
Jones, Hou.	30	7	286	9.50	74	0
Davis, Ten.	31	12	293	9.50	39	0
Northcutt, Jac.	26	13	240	9.20	37	0
Washington, NYJ	20	14	183	9.20	33	0
Drummond, K.C.	32	11	222	6.90	22	0
Rossum, Pit.	36	8	232	6.40	49	0
Higgins, Oak.	..20	6	103	5.20	54	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Cribbs, Cle.	59	1809	30.7	100t	2
Davis, Hou.	32	968	30.3	104t	3
Washington, NYJ	47	1291	27.5	98t	3
Sproles, S.D.	37	1008	27.2	89t	1
Jones-Drew, Jac.	31	811	26.2	100t	1
Hobbs, N.E.	35	911	26.0	108t	1
Figurs, Bal.	46	1138	24.7	94t	1
Holt, Cin.	59f	1432	24.3	100t	1
McGee, Buf.	45	1082	24.0	103t	1
Wynn, Hou.	22	523	23.8	39	0
Rossum, Pit.	38	885	23.3	98t	1
Rushing, Ind.	31	714	23.0	47	0
Ginn, Mia.	63	1433	22.7	52	0
Carr, Oak.	59	1327	22.5	43	0
Drummond, K.C.	37	785	21.2	39	0

TEAM SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XKG	XKAtt	X2G	X2Att	FG	FGA	SAF	PTS
New England	75	17	50	8	74	74	1	1	21	24	0	589
Indianapolis	54	19	32	3	49	51	2	3	23	29	2	450
San Diego	49	19	22	8	46	46	0	2	24	27	0	412
Jacksonville	50	18	28	4	46	48	1	2	21	24	0	411
Cleveland	46	13	29	4	42	43	2	3	26	30	1	402
Pittsburgh	46	9	34	3	44	44	2	2	23	25	0	393
Cincinnati	41	10	26	5	37	38	1	3	31	34	1	380
Houston	43	12	24	7	40	40	3	3	25	29	0	379
Denver	34	10	21	3	33	33	0	1	27	31	1	320
Tennessee	28	17	9	2	28	28	0	0	35	39	0	301
Oakland	30	11	17	2	28	28	2	2	23	32	1	283
Baltimore	28	11	13	4	26	26	0	2	27	32	0	275
N.Y. Jets	26	6	15	5	23	24	1	2	29	36	0	268
Miami	29	14	12	3	26	26	2	2	21	23	0	267
Buffalo	25	8	12	5	24	24	1	1	24	27	2	252
Kansas City	24	6	17	1	21	21	1	3	19	27	1	226

PUNTING

	No	Yds	Long	Avg	Punts	TB	Total Blk	Opp Ret	Ret Yds	In 20	Net Avg
Lechler, Oak.	73	3585	70	49.1	73	7	0	40	445	25	41.1
Sauerbrun, Den.	47	2200	65	46.8	49	6	2	28	313	14	36.1
Scifres, S.D.	81	3735	70	46.1	82	9	1	29	311	36	39.6
Colquitt, K.C.	95	4322	81	45.5	96	9	1	50	387	27	39.1
Koch, Bal.	78	3397	64	43.6	79	9	1	38	375	20	36.0
Graham, NYJ	66	2855	62	43.3	67	7	1	31	262	23	36.6
Fields, Mia.	77	3327	61	43.2	77	6	0	39	387	10	36.6
Sepulveda, Pit.	68	2880	59	42.4	68	2	0	31	266	28	37.9
Hentrich, Ten.	70	2939	66	42.0	70	6	0	30	264	24	36.5
Smith, Ind.	52	2181	63	41.9	52	5	0	22	305	18	34.2
Zastudil, Cle.	49	2046	64	41.8	49	4	0	26	272	14	34.6
Turk, Hou.	55	2296	59	41.7	55	3	0	19	151	24	37.9
*Podlesh, Jac.	54	2249	76	41.6	54	2	0	28	218	14	36.9
Hanson, N.E.	44	1821	64	41.4	45	6	1	14	75	13	36.1
Larson, Cin.	59	2437	55	41.3	59	3	0	33	299	21	35.2
Moorman, Buf.	81	3302	75	40.8	81	3	0	37	196	30	37.6

2007 NFC TEAM STATISTICS

OFFENSE

	Ariz.	Atl.	Car.	Chi.	Dal.	Det.	G.B.	Minn.	N.O.	NYG	Phil.	Stl.	S.F.	Sea.	T.B.	Wash.
First Downs	308	248	255	266	322	303	307	294	346	321	323	281	218	323	281	307
Rushing	70	73	85	74	83	73	69	131	94	119	118	65	65	93	98	103
Passing	210	161	142	168	217	203	210	139	232	167	186	193	140	211	162	192
Penalty	28	14	28	24	22	27	28	24	20	35	19	23	13	19	21	12
Rushes	402	385	451	423	419	324	388	494	392	469	421	404	357	430	449	498
Net Yds. Gained	1440	1520	1824	1330	1746	1288	1597	2634	1466	2148	1974	1527	1477	1619	1872	1871
Avg. Gain	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.1	4.2	4.0	4.1	5.3	3.7	4.6	4.7	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.2	3.8
Avg. Yds. per Game	90.0	95.0	114.0	83.1	109.1	80.5	99.8	164.6	91.6	134.3	123.4	95.4	92.3	101.2	117.0	116.9
Passes Attempted	590	555	505	569	531	587	578	432	652	544	577	574	513	590	490	525
Completed	356	336	285	327	342	368	383	249	440	302	350	333	274	371	316	319
% Completed	60.3	60.5	56.4	57.5	64.4	62.7	66.3	57.6	67.5	55.5	60.7	58.0	53.4	62.9	64.5	60.8
Total Yds. Gained	4228	3573	2941	3701	4290	4216	4461	2938	4423	3376	4005	3561	2685	4181	3579	3622
Had Intercepted	24	15	17	21	19	22	15	14	18	20	15	28	17	13	8	11
Times Sacked	24	47	33	43	25	54	19	38	16	28	49	48	55	36	36	29
Yds. Lost	163	277	206	339	185	338	127	193	109	222	250	328	365	217	222	159
Net Yds. Gained	4065	3296	2735	3362	4105	3878	4334	2745	4314	3154	3755	3233	2320	3964	3357	3463
Avg. Yds. per Game	254.1	206.0	170.9	210.1	256.6	242.4	270.9	171.6	269.6	197.1	234.7	202.1	145.0	247.8	209.8	216.4
Net Yds. per Pass Play	6.62	5.48	5.08	5.49	7.38	6.05	7.26	5.84	6.46	5.51	6.00	5.20	4.08	6.33	6.38	6.25
Yds. Gained	5505	4816	4559	4692	5851	5166	5931	5379	5780	5302	5729	4760	3797	5583	5229	5334
Avg. Yds. per Game	344.1	301.0	284.9	293.3	365.7	322.9	370.7	336.2	361.3	331.4	358.1	297.5	237.3	348.9	326.8	333.4
Total Yards	1016	987	989	1035	975	965	985	964	1060	1041	1047	1026	925	1056	975	1052
Avg. Yds. per Play	5.4	4.9	4.6	4.5	6.0	5.4	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.1	5.5	4.6	4.1	5.3	5.4	5.1
Avg. Time of Poss.	30:10	28:34	28:44	28:22	30:34	27:33	30:19	29:22	31:09	31:22	30:56	30:08	26:51	29:49	30:27	30:46
Third Down Efficiency	36.9	36.3	36.2	34.0	42.2	32.6	42.6	34.5	46.3	41.6	42.4	36.3	31.4	35.0	38.5	40.7
Punt Returns	42	36	32	44	26	18	48	29	24	43	42	30	56	58	50	40
Avg. Yds. per Return	9.4	6.3	8.4	14.8	8.7	8.2	10.3	8.3	8.2	7.4	8.1	11.9	8.6	11.3	6.7	7.5
Kickoff Returns	74	72	60	67	61	72	62	59	71	66	71	82	73	53	48	65
Avg. Yds. per Return	22.7	24.7	19.1	18.4	22.3	22.6	21.8	24.8	21.3	23.9	21.7	23.6	23.3	22.1	23.3	23.8
Fumbles	27	18	25	34	21	35	25	27	25	26	24	25	36	21	18	35
Lost	12	9	12	13	5	14	9	16	12	14	12	9	17	11	12	18
Penalties	137	105	95	111	104	100	113	86	68	77	83	94	97	59	81	90
Yds. Penalized	1128	891	801	839	815	676	1006	662	581	652	649	794	702	428	614	751
Total Points Scored	404	259	267	334	455	346	435	365	379	373	336	263	219	393	334	334
Total TDs	49	26	28	34	54	37	49	43	47	44	38	27	24	44	36	35
TDs Rushing	9	7	7	8	14	13	13	22	14	15	12	5	8	9	15	15
TDs Passing	32	18	19	18	36	19	30	12	28	23	24	19	15	30	18	18
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	8	1	2	8	4	5	6	9	5	6	2	3	1	5	3	2
Extra Point Kicks	47	25	27	33	53	35	48	39	42	40	36	25	22	43	34	29
2Pt Conversions	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Safeties	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2
Field Goals Made	21	26	24	31	26	29	31	20	15	23	24	24	17	28	28	29

DEFENSE

	Ariz.	Atl.	Car.	Chi.	Dal.	Det.	G.B.	Minn.	N.O.	NYG	Phil.	Stl.	S.F.	Sea.	T.B.	Wash.
First Downs	298	320	302	305	304	363	297	305	288	288	279	316	308	278	258	291
Rushing	90	105	100	100	86	116	77	67	80	83	80	105	94	78	93	89
Passing	185	190	174	185	195	221	176	222	196	185	177	190	187	183	158	174
Penalty	23	25	28	20	23	26	44	16	12	20	22	21	27	17	7	28
Rushes	407	481	472	454	381	448	424	379	408	408	403	445	504	422	454	391
Net Yds. Gained	1567	2033	1771	1967	1513	1911	1647	1185	1646	1563	1533	1844	1896	1644	1726	1460
Avg. Gain	3.9	4.2	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.3	3.9	3.1	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7
Avg. Yds. per Game	97.9	127.1	110.7	122.9	94.6	119.4	102.9	74.1	102.9	97.7	95.8	115.3	118.5	102.8	107.9	91.3
Passes Attempted	570	536	537	541	581	602	534	646	524	523	539	523	543	568	490	602
Completed	361	336	337	343	342	422	295	415	327	306	312	318	345	333	297	351
% Completed	63.3	62.7	62.8	63.4	58.9	70.1	55.2	64.2	62.4	58.5	57.9	60.8	63.5	58.6	60.6	58.3
Total Yds. Gained	3958	3801	3603	3953	3728	4387	3584	4500	4122	3666	3693	3847	3826	3808	2935	3622
Intercepted By	18	16	14	16	19	17	19	15	13	15	11	18	12	20	16	14
Times Sacked	36	25	23	41	46	37	36	38	32	53	37	31	31	45	33	33
Yds. Lost	242	146	177	245	319	256	218	275	198	349	244	234	183	303	207	198
Net Yds. Gained	3716	3655	3426	3708	3409	4131	3366	4225	3924	3317	3449	3613	3643	3505	2728	3424
Avg. Yds. per Game	232.3	228.4	214.1	231.8	213.1	258.2	210.4	264.1	245.3	207.3	215.6	225.8	227.7	219.1	170.5	214.0
Net Yds. per Pass Play	6.13	6.52	6.12	6.37	5.44	6.46	5.91	6.18	7.06	5.76	5.99	6.52	6.35	5.72	5.22	5.39
Yds. Gained	5283	5688	5197	5675	4922	6042	5013	5410	5570	4880	4982	5457	5539	5149	4454	4884
Avg. Yds. per Game	330.2	355.5	324.8	354.7	307.6	377.6	313.3	338.1	348.1	305.0	311.4	341.1	346.2	321.8	278.4	305.3
Total Yards	1013	1042	1032	1036	1008	1087	994	1063	964	984	979	999	1078	1035	977	1026
Avg. Yds. per Play	5.2	5.5	5.0	5.5	4.9	5.6	5.0	5.1	5.8	5.0	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.8
Avg. Time of Poss.	29:50	31:26	31:16	31:38	29:27	32:27	29:41	30:38	28:51	28:38	29:04	29:52	33:09	30:11	29:33	29:14
Third Down Efficiency	40.1	37.1	42.5	32.7	39.4	45.5	33.0	40.2	41.7	34.6	37.2	38.8	40.2	37.9	41.1	35.8
Punt Returns	38	41	55	40	35	36	19	43	35	28	36	48	53	37	38	32
Avg. Yds. per Return	13.1	7.5	10.5	5.9	11.6	12.1	5.9	10.2	9.6	6.2	11.4	9.1	7.6	9.8	7.4	6.3
Kickoff Returns	60	50	56	71	86	65	77	65	56	69	69	58	45	72	68	66
Avg. Yds. per Return	23.2	23.0	23.8	19.3	23.0	26.9	20.9	22.2	22.4	23.1	22.3	27.2	21.8	24.9	19.5	19.5
Fumbles	23	21	30	34	26	40	17	37	27	24	16	23	17	31	31	27
Lost	11	12	16	17	10	18	9	16	10	10	8	9	10	14	19	10
Penalties	118	91	100	92	85	113	118	110	89	118	81	95	89	99	86	88
Yds. Penalized	881	808	904	670	785	897	908	763	685	874	616	732	661	756	706	684
Total Points Scored	399	414	347	348	325	444	291	311	388	351	300	438	364	291	270	310
Total TDs	45	47	38	39	36	56	31	32	44	41	30	48	39	32	32	33
TDs Rushing	13	12	13	17	12	19	6	7	7	12	10	16	9	16	11	10
TDs Passing	26	27	22	19	19	32	23	22	32	24	16	25	24	15	18	20
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	6	8	3	3	5	5	2	3	5	5	4	7	6	1	3	3
Extra Point Kicks	39	46	38	35	34	53	29	31	44	38	27	44	37	27	31	29
2Pt Conversions	2	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0
Safeties	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1
Field Goals Made	28	28	27	25	25	17	24	28	26	21	31	34	31	22	15	27

2007 AFC TEAM STATISTICS

OFFENSE

	Balt.	Buff.	Cin.	Cle.	Den.	Hou.	Ind.	Jac.	K.C.	Mia.	N.E.	NYJ	Oak.	Pitt.	S.D.	Tenn.
First Downs	291	248	320	315	305	295	357	328	255	283	393	286	267	298	278	306
Rushing	96	91	81	110	96	96	119	127	66	107	124	92	111	108	104	118
Passing	175	141	213	192	187	190	212	180	171	162	243	173	133	179	158	171
Penalty	20	16	26	13	22	9	26	21	18	14	26	21	23	11	16	17
Rushes	446	448	416	440	429	417	446	522	383	389	451	446	508	511	485	543
Net Yds. Gained	1797	1800	1556	1895	1957	1586	1706	2391	1248	1569	1849	1701	2086	2168	2039	2109
Avg. Gain	4.0	4.0	3.7	4.3	4.6	3.8	3.8	4.6	3.3	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.2	3.9
Avg. Yds. per Game	112.3	112.5	97.3	118.4	122.3	99.1	106.6	149.4	78.0	98.1	115.6	106.3	130.4	135.5	127.4	131.8
Passes Attempted	557	445	575	545	515	529	551	469	563	558	586	512	451	442	471	464
Completed	341	263	373	305	326	346	355	288	335	318	403	310	260	282	281	288
% Completed	61.2	59.1	64.9	56.0	63.3	65.4	64.4	61.4	59.5	57.0	68.8	60.5	57.6	63.8	59.7	62.1
Total Yds. Gained	3308	2842	4131	3866	3759	3925	4172	3495	3525	3319	4859	3330	2893	3418	3175	3077
Had Intercepted	24	15	17	21	19	22	15	14	18	20	15	28	17	13	8	11
Times Sacked	39	26	17	19	32	22	23	31	55	42	21	53	41	47	24	30
Yds. Lost	273	208	119	140	175	174	139	167	344	288	128	316	262	347	170	199
Net Yds. Gained	3035	2634	4012	3726	3584	3751	4033	3328	3181	3031	4731	3014	2631	3071	3005	2878
Avg. Yds. per Game	189.7	164.6	250.8	232.9	224.0	234.4	252.1	208.0	198.8	189.4	295.7	188.4	164.4	191.9	187.8	179.9
Net Yds. per Pass Play	5.09	5.59	6.78	6.61	6.55	6.81	7.03	6.66	5.15	5.05	7.79	5.33	5.35	6.28	6.07	5.83
Yds. Gained per Comp.	9.70	10.81	11.08	12.68	11.53	11.34	11.75	12.14	10.52	10.44	12.06	10.74	11.13	12.12	11.30	10.68
Yds. Gained	4832	4434	5568	5621	5541	5337	5739	5719	4429	4600	6580	4715	4717	5239	5044	4987
Avg. Yds. per Game	302.0	277.1	348.0	351.3	346.3	333.6	358.7	357.4	276.8	287.5	411.3	294.7	294.8	327.4	315.3	311.7
Total Plays	1042	919	1008	1004	976	968	1020	1022	1001	989	1058	1011	1000	1000	980	1037
Avg. Yds. per Play	4.6	4.8	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	4.4	4.7	6.2	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.1	4.8
Avg. Time of Poss.	30:46	28:51	29:26	29:10	29:09	29:41	29:49	32:08	29:52	29:05	32:33	28:35	31:09	33:18	29:50	31:38
Third Down Efficiency	38.5	33.3	46.2	42.2	40.4	44.6	49.3	45.7	34.1	37.2	48.2	37.6	35.8	46.8	39.3	41.0
Punt Returns	35	31	27	30	23	33	25	32	40	24	33	20	38	39	32	42
Yds. Returned	338	476	131	405	209	287	280	324	302	230	311	183	209	238	281	367
Kickoff Returns	65	70	73	72	58	74	53	49	67	78	55	74	78	52	48	52
Avg. Yds. per Return	23.5	20.7	23.1	27.0	22.3	26.5	21.8	22.7	19.2	19.9	25.2	22.9	21.6	22.0	25.5	21.1
Fumbles	35	20	20	22	30	26	14	18	22	25	14	20	42	21	17	32
Lost	26	7	10	9	14	17	5	13	13	13	6	6	17	8	8	17
Penalties	107	78	90	114	90	82	67	76	101	91	78	63	120	80	94	101
Yds. Penalized	873	633	670	868	610	636	515	594	697	732	690	486	864	651	761	773
Total Points Scored	275	252	380	402	320	379	450	411	226	267	589	268	283	393	412	301
Total TDs	28	25	41	46	34	43	54	50	24	29	75	26	30	46	49	28
TDs Rushing	11	8	10	13	10	12	19	18	6	14	17	6	11	9	19	17
TDs Passing	13	12	26	29	21	24	32	28	17	12	50	15	17	34	22	9
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	4	5	5	4	3	7	3	4	1	3	8	5	2	3	8	2
Extra Point Kicks	26	24	37	42	33	40	49	46	21	26	74	23	28	44	46	28
2Pt Conversions	0	1	1	2	0	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	0
Safeties	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Field Goals Made	27	24	31	26	27	25	23	21	19	21	21	29	23	23	24	35

DEFENSE

	Balt.	Buff.	Cin.	Cle.	Den.	Hou.	Ind.	Jac.	K.C.	Mia.	N.E.	NYJ	Oak.	Pitt.	S.D.	Tenn.
First Downs	258	322	313	335	306	325	288	286	278	318	278	315	292	249	297	268
Rushing	69	104	98	100	119	107	111	92	104	129	91	128	121	74	89	80
Passing	162	203	200	211	168	197	162	181	156	165	172	174	156	158	185	165
Penalty	27	15	15	24	19	21	15	13	18	24	15	13	15	17	23	23
Rushes	446	454	449	460	501	417	454	390	481	544	360	517	486	361	416	369
Net Yds. Gained	1268	1993	1893	2072	2282	1825	1711	1605	2089	2456	1572	2156	2334	1438	1712	1478
Avg. Gain	2.8	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.4	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.8	4.0	4.1	4.0
Avg. Yds. per Game	79.3	124.6	118.3	129.5	142.6	114.1	106.9	100.3	130.6	153.5	98.3	134.8	145.9	89.9	107.0	92.4
Passes Attempted	490	567	540	578	458	546	498	543	462	409	526	470	439	536	555	569
Completed	293	354	353	340	279	361	325	319	276	242	314	289	261	292	338	349
% Completed	59.8	62.4	65.4	58.8	60.9	66.1	65.3	58.7	59.7	59.2	59.7	61.5	59.5	54.5	60.9	61.3
Total Yds. Gained	3740	3958	3815	3867	3297	3878	2926	3660	3274	3186	3381	3362	3318	3067	3684	3428
Intercepted By	17	18	19	17	14	11	22	20	14	14	19	15	18	11	30	22
Times Sacked	32	26	22	28	33	31	28	37	37	30	47	29	27	36	42	40
Yds. Lost	183	144	128	186	203	196	162	244	252	167	340	208	186	243	272	241
Net Yds. Gained	3557	3814	3687	3681	3094	3682	2764	3416	3022	3019	3041	3154	3132	2824	3412	3187
Avg. Yds. per Game	222.3	238.4	230.4	230.1	193.4	230.1	172.8	213.5	188.9	188.7	190.1	197.1	195.8	176.5	213.3	199.2
Net Yds. per Pass Play	6.81	6.43	6.56	6.07	6.30	6.38	5.25	5.89	6.06	6.88	5.31	6.32	6.72	4.94	5.72	5.23
Yds. Gained	4825	5807	5580	5753	5376	5507	4475	5021	5111	5475	4613	5310	5466	4262	5124	4665
Avg. Yds. per Game	301.6	362.9	348.8	359.6	336.0	344.2	279.7	313.8	319.4	342.2	288.3	331.9	341.6	266.4	320.3	291.6
Total Yards	968	1047	1011	1066	992	994	980	970	980	983	933	1016	952	933	1013	978
Avg. Yds. per Play	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	4.6	5.2	5.2	5.6	4.9	5.2	5.7	4.6	5.1	4.8
Avg. Time of Poss.	29:14	31:09	30:34	30:50	30:51	30:19	30:11	27:52	30:08	30:55	27:27	31:25	28:51	26:42	30:10	28:22
Third Down Efficiency	36.6	45.1	42.8	36.7	42.7	41.9	45.2	39.8	31.3	47.1	33.7	42.2	39.0	40.5	39.3	42.2
Punt Returns	38	37	33	34	31	19	22	28	50	39	14	32	40	31	29	31
Avg. Yds. per Return	9.9	5.3	9.1	9.1	10.8	7.9	13.9	7.8	7.7	9.9	5.4	8.4	11.1	8.6	10.7	8.8
Kickoff Returns	61	56	76	76	62	69	81	67	51	50	92	51	43	73	75	58
Yds. Returned	1444	1150	1732	1590	1424	1593	2029	1323	1105	1292	2030	1270	963	1647	1566	1404
Returned for TD	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Fumbles	12	29	28	19	34	24	27	20	21	20	25	15	19	30	27	26
Lost	6	12	16	10	16	14	15	10	8	8	12	6	8	14	18	12
Penalties	84	73	88	80	82	81	85	82	95	73	96	93	99	73	86	90
Yds. Penalized	728	567	712	581	628	614	722	636	695	604	764	761	734	556	665	745
Total Points Scored	384	354	385	382	409	384	262	304	335	437	274	355	398	269	284	297
Total TDs	39	39	44	41	46	43	31	35	33	50	34	38	46	31	35	35
TDs Rushing	9	15	11	8	14	15	10	12	11	18	7	14	24	6	11	11
TDs Passing	27	19	29	29	25	25	16	20	17	28	23	18	17	22	20	21
TDs on Ret. and Rec.	3	5	4	4	7	3	5	3	5	4	4	6	5	3	4	3
Extra Point Kicks	35	37	42	38	42	42	27	32	33	49	34	36	43	29	33	31
2Pt Conversions	1	0	2	1	3	0	2	3	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1
Safeties	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Field Goals Made	37	27	25	32	27	28	15	18	34	28	12	29	25	18	13	18

A LOOK BACK

75 YEARS AGO (1933)

- Pro football had been played by the rules of college football until the league made several changes for the season, putting the goal posts on the goal line and hashmarks on the field. Perhaps the most significant rule change came when the forward pass was legalized from anywhere behind the line of scrimmage, doing away with the 5-yard rule.

- Three new franchises added — the Pittsburgh Pirates, Philadelphia Eagles and Cincinnati Reds — which brought two significant owners into the league. Art Rooney owned the Pittsburgh franchise and Bert Bell owned the Eagles. George Halas bought out his partner with the Chicago Bears and became the sole owner and promptly named himself head coach, while Charles W. Bidwell bought the Chicago Cardinals. In Boston, George Preston Marshall renamed the Boston Braves the Boston Redskins.

- The league was divided into two divisions to set up a championship game every season. The Chicago Bears won the West in 1933 and the New York Giants won the East with the Bears winning the championship with a 23-21 win over the Giants at Wrigley Field in Chicago on December 17. The winning touchdown was scored on a trick play when Bronko Nagurski faked a run and then tossed a 14-yard pass to Bill Hewitt, who lateralled the ball to Bill Karr, who finished off the play by running 19 yards into the end zone.

50 YEARS AGO (1958)

- Jim Brown of Cleveland proved he was going to be one of the NFL's greatest backs by rushing for a record 1,527 yards and leading the league for the second consecutive season, but when Cleveland met the New York Giants in a conference playoff, the Giants held the star back from Syracuse to a measly eight yards and won 10-0 to advance to the championship game.

PHOTO BY FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES

JIM BROWN

- The 1958 NFL Championship Game between the Giants and Baltimore Colts was perhaps the greatest football game ever played. With the Giants leading 17-14 and seven seconds to play, Baltimore's Steve Myra kicked a 20-yard field goal to tie the game and send it into overtime for the first time in championship game history. Eight minutes and 15 seconds into overtime, Alan "The Horse" Ameche sliced into the end zone from the 1-yard line to give the Colts a thrilling 23-17 victory.

PHOTO BY PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME/NFL PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

ALAN AMECHE

35 YEARS AGO (1973)

- A jersey numbering system was adopted: 1-19 for quarterbacks and specialists, 20-49 for running backs and defensive backs, 50-59 for centers and linebackers, 60-79 for defensive linemen and interior offensive linemen other than centers, and 80-89 for wide receivers and tight ends. Players who had been in the NFL in 1972 could continue to use old numbers.

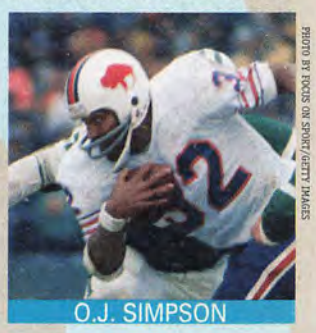
PHOTO BY FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES

O.J. SIMPSON

- O.J. Simpson of Buffalo became the first player to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season, gaining 2,003 yards and scoring 12 touchdowns

- The top two passers in the NFL were Roger Stauback of Dallas in the NFC and Oakland's Ken Stabler in the AFC. Staubach threw for 2,428 yards and 23 touchdowns. Stabler threw for 1,997 yards and 14 scores.

25 YEARS AGO (1983)

- The NFL lost one of its pioneers when George Halas passed away on Oct. 31 at the age of 88. Halas was the last surviving member of the NFL's second organizational meeting and the long-time owner and coach of the Chicago Bears.

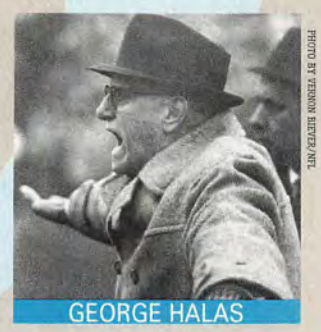
PHOTO BY VERNON BIEVER/NFL

GEORGE HALAS

- Rookie Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams led the NFC with 1,808 yards rushing and scored 18 touchdowns, the second highest single-season total in NFL history.

- A rookie quarterback named Dan Marino led the Miami Dolphins to a 12-4 record and the championship of the AFC East. Marino threw for 2,210 yards and 20 touchdowns, but the Dolphins were eliminated in the divisional playoffs by Seattle, 27-20.

10 YEARS AGO (1998)

- The NFL clubs voted unanimously to place an expansion team in Cleveland to replace the Browns, who had moved to Baltimore to become the Ravens. The new team was going to take on the name, history and colors of the first Cleveland Browns.

- NFL paid attendance totaled 997,835 for 15 games in Week 1, the highest opening weekend total in league history and the second-highest total ever. In 1997, paid attendance totaled 999,778 for 15 games in Week 12, September 6-7.

- Tennessee Oilers owner Bud Adams announced the team would change its name to the Tennessee Titans following the 1998 season. In an unprecedented move, the league permanently retired the name Oilers, a first in league history.

- Denver's Terrell Davis led the AFC with 2,008 yards and 21 touchdowns, his third consecutive AFC rushing title.

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